VISIT

TO THE

PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS

IN

SOUTH-WESTERN AFRICA.

BY

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Translated from the German, with an Introduction and Annotations

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CHAPTER VII.

Visit of a Soba—The River Bengo—Extraordinary Beauty of the Scenery on the Banks—The Inhabitants—Their Happy Condition—Mr. Lion's Establishment—Voracity and Cruelty of the Lion—Uncomfortable Night—Alligator Hunt—Return to Benguela—Changed Appearance of the Place—Great Mortality—Departure from Benguela—Return to Loanda—Departure from Loanda, and Voyage to the Free Negro State Ambriz.

While at Loanda, I witnessed the entry of a Soba, or negro prince, who came to contract friendly relations with the government. It was an exceedingly interesting spectacle, for he was attended b

a retinue of more than a thousand men, the greater part of whom were armed with a variety of weapons. The procession was headed by a troop of musicians, and was swelled by an immense crowd of spectators, who thronged around the musicians, and gave vent to their excited feelings, by dancing and shouting with childish glee.

The Soba was seated in a kind of chair, in the centre of a large flat litter, which was borne by four naked negroes, while other slaves held a canopy of elegantly wrought bass mat fastened to four poles. and trimmed with broad fringes, as a protection against the sun.

The head-dress of the Soba consisted of the so-called mafookcap, made of the same matertal as the canopy, and of which I shall speak more particularly in my account of Ambriz. The rest of his dress was composed of European calicoes, the

ample folds of which were probably intended to indicate his wealth. Four ministers or mafooks, armed with lances and a long bamboo cane, followed close behind the litter, and formed a body guard; then the rest of his attendants brought up the rear, without any regard to order.

Arrived at the palace-gate, the Soba, who was advanced in years, was lifted from his seat by two blacks; in doing which, one of them had the misfortune to knock off the royal cap, which was placed carelessly on the prince's head. One of the mafooks quickly stepped forward, and replaced it very respectfully on the head of his master, who, with an angry frown on his countenance, gave a signal, upon which the culprit was instantly taken aside, and received several severe blows from the mafooks with their long canes. Without paying any further regard to

what had taken place, the Soba, accompanied by two mafooks and an interpreter, went to meet the Governor, who was waiting at the door to receive him. After short mutual salutations, the Governor accompanied his guest to the audience chamber; and during their brief conference, the negro musicians continued to sound their horns and drums, to the great delight of the crowd, who went on dancing and singing.

Apartments were assigned to the Soba in a building belonging to the palace, where his table was amply supplied with all that he could wish for. After a stay of three days, he took his departure in the same manner as he had made his entry. No attention whatever was in the mean time paid to his numerous suite; they were left to ramble about, and to support and amuse themselves as well as they could. The musicians alone, contrived to turn

this visit to their own account; they kept playing the same tiresome monotonous strains before every house, and joyfully received the money which the people threw to them from the windows, and which enabled them to indulge at night in ample potations of brandy. The band consisted of eight members, five of whom were horn-blowers, and three trumpeters. The horns were elephants' teeth, which, notwithstanding their size, the largest being full four feet long, and the smallest about one and a half feet, were easily managed, because they were hollowed out. They were all elegantly carved with figures of animals, and were ornamented with black rings, which appeared to be burnt in, and a variety of other designs in red and yellow paint. A great effort seemed requisite to blow this instrument, and it was not possible to play on it for any length of time, because the entire harmony con-

sisted of as many notes, as there were instruments, so that the performer had a long interval to recover his breath. Each drum was made of one piece of wood; the two smaller ones, which were between two and three feet long, were covered at either end with goats' leather, tightly stretched, while the largest, which was at least five feet long, was covered only at one end. All the drums were beaten with a small wooden stick; the larger one was held between the legs of the drummer, as if he were riding on it; while the smaller ones were suspended by a strap from his neck, and were held under his left arm.

It might be inferred that this orchestra could not produce a very agreeable concert to a musical ear; nevertheless, at a moderate distance the effect was by no means unpleasing. A European would carcely recognise the history of a love

romance in this noisy music; but the movements of the dance, accompanied by castanets and snapping the fingers, by boisterous singing, and loud extempore speeches, soon indicate that this apparently warlike music is no other than a tender love story. During the three days that this band remained in the town, one half of the black population of Loanda were constantly following it about, and seemed to be never weary of dancing and shouting.

The favourite musical instrument among the negroes of the coast, as well as of the remote countries in the interior, in known by the name of marimba. The construction of it is extremely simple; it is merely a board made of light wood, with two transverse bars, across which are laid nineteen musical bars of wrought iron, the longer ends of which are set in motion by the thumbs, and produce a sharp,

and not unpleasant sound. The extent of the scale is two and a half octaves.

Another still more imperfect instrument is a kind of bow, resembling that of a violin, which is bent by means of a metal wire, or by a strong vegetable fibre. The string is touched with a small stick of wood or iron, and the thumb-nail of the left hand, which holds the instrument, is applied to lengthen or shorten the string, in order to vary the tone, which is of course weak and insignificant, but, at the same time, agreeable.

I must not omit to mention a small amateur theatre in the upper town. The company consists of the principal people of the town, and, as they perform only three or four times a year, they send to Brazil for the necessary materials for every piece. I was present at the performance of the tragedy of Nova Castro, by Baptista Gomez Junior, and which much

exceeded my expectations. The performers, however, without exception, took so much pains to sound the rhymes of every strophe, that they repeated their parts in haste, without any feeling or gesticulation; but this anxious haste and careful observance of the rhyme, might possibly be owing to the want of a prompter. A young officer, an acquaintance of mine, who acted the part of the prince Don Pedro, was obliged twice to take out the MS. which he carried in his pocket, and thus supply the deficiency of his memory.

The interval between the several acts was filled up with wretched military music, which made the audience impatiently desire the continuance of the play. I was much struck with the strict separation of the two sexes among the spectators; the females having a separate entrance for themselves, and being divided from the

men, in the house itself, by an insuperable barrier. I had no opportunity of seeing that this arrangement was necessary, but I do not doubt its utility.

Among the principal buildings of the town, the alfandega or custom-house, and exchange, rank next to the palace. While every other public building is suffered to fall into decay, this place of commercial resort is kept in perfect repair. A handsome flight of granite steps leads into the entrance hall, the spacious square which extends to the water-side, is paved with white flags, and a broad granite staircase leads down to the harbour. The hall might contain a large assemblage, but it is not much used except when goods are to be sold, on which rare occasions, a few purchasers meet, but no ordinary exchange transactions take place there.

The hospital 'Misericordia,' a very pretty building, is connected with the

church of the same name, and is just beyond the town. It is visible a great way off, and commands a magnificent view over the whole town, the harbour, the sea, and the surrounding country, hemmed in by the distant mountains. The wards are lofty and spacious, and so numerous that there is no fear of their being crowded. Private patients who desire to have separate rooms, can always be accommodated at a small expense for board. The largest ward had twenty wooden bedsteads with sea-grass mattresses. The physician of this hospital is the phisico mór'; there is likewise a cirugiao mór', who has, besides, the charge of two rooms for the castigados of the soldiers, of whom there are usually between fifteen and twenty in the beds.

It cannot be denied that strict discipline is absolutely necessary for these soldiers, the greater number of whom are Portuguese convicts; but that not a day

should pass without at least one of the men so ill-treated being obliged to go into the hospital, in consequence of having received from some hundred to two thousand blows with a slender cane on the bare back,—under which barbarous treatment many expire,—surely this is an unquestionable evidence that their chastisement is too severe, and may well be termed satanic.

The actual military hospital is very near to La Misericordia, but it is much smaller, and bearing evident marks of excessive economy. When we recollect that the two principal physicians are accustomed to visit their stations only once in the day, namely, early in the morning, leaving both hospitals for the remainder of the day, to the care of some rough attendants; it may easily be imagined in what a deplorable state of dirt and disorder, the sick chambers must be, and how

often the life of the patient, abandoned by the physician, is sacrificed to the convenience of these gentlemen.

The forts of San Miguel, Penedo and San Pedro, are certainly some of the most interesting buildings in the town, and, from their European form, their very durable construction, and their Portuguese garrison, stand in striking contrast with every thing that surrounds them. Their situation close to the sea, and the direction of their guns, which are pointed towards that side, proves that the engineers thought only of defence against that quarter, or rather protection against European attacks, while no measures whatever were taken to protect the town from an attack on the land-side. For the latter purpose, means might be very easily found: for there would be no need of a thick lofty wall of stone and granite, to resist the almost innoxious arrows, spears, and

clubs of a band of hostile negroes. In spite of the strength of the existing fortifications, Leanda might be easily taken by a well-directed assault on the land-side.

Fort San Miguel being possessed of a wall is able to sustain a few months' siege; —yet, half a dozen camels are nevertheless kept at the expense of the government, to fetch the necessary supply of water for the chief civil, and military officers, from a spring near Fort San Pedro. The other inhabitants have an aversion from the bad cistern-water, and that which is taken from the shallow pits in the island of Leanda; they consequently are obliged to buy whatever water they may require from the negroes, who make it their daily business to fetch it in a boat from the distant river Bengo. This water is also thick and turbid, especially at the time of the great rains: but

the custom of filtering it through stones, which is practised in every house, makes it pure and clear. When the strong ebb prevents the boats from reaching their destination, there is, at times, a great scarcity of this important element. The water of the neighbouring island, which was formerly so celebrated, is of course only sea-water filtered in the sand: it has a bad taste and is beginning to be disused. It is not improbable that it may formerly have had a better taste, before this island was so much reduced in its extent by the continued incursions of the sea.

A former governor, Jose de Oliveira Barreto, was very desirious to remedy this evil, and projected the great work of building a canal, that should connect the city with the river Coanza, which is at least three leagues distant. But when the labourers had succeeded in digging to the length of three thousand fathoms, during the years

1813—15, a heavy rain set in, and the overflowing of lake Mugé frustrated his labour, and destroyed all that he had done. Nothing daunted by this failure, he made a second essay, which likewise proved abortive; and since that time, no one has had the courage to make a similar attempt, except that about three years ago, an artesian-well was commenced in the middle of the lower town, by a German, who was engaged for that purpose; but this experiment does not appear to promise any great success.

During the few years that this colony was in the hands of the Dutch, they commenced a canal, which communicated with the Coanza further in the interior, where the land lies higher, and as the ground is not so sandy, there was less danger of the work falling in. But the speedy loss of the colony put a stop to the work, and since the Portuguese recovered possession

the undertaking seems to be altogether forgotten.

The natural foundation of Fort San Miguel is a dark brown, nay, almost black rock, which looks as if it had been exposed to the action of fire. It stands quite isolated among the sand that surrounds it; but such huge masses of stone have been rent away by the lapse of time, that the foundation is so greatly reduced in size, that, in some places, the outward perpendicular wall of the fort nearly forms a straight line with the steep sides of the cliff.

Penedo, the second fort of Loando, is situated towards the north, just without the town. I have already observed that it is of small extent, built into the harbour, and has very low walls, which are washed on three sides by the ocean. The fort contains only the dwelling of a subaltern officer or keeper of the prison, a

small guard house for the few soldiers, impenetrable prisons, and chambers for powder and ball. Even the commandant resides in a small house, between twenty and thirty paces distant. All the walls are white-washed; and a poor European soldier dressed in a woolen uniform jacket, and carrying a heavy musket, is obliged to mount guard on the top for two consecutive hours. He is not even provided with any shed to protect him from the rain, the nightly dew, the fierce heat, or the scorching beams of the sun, which are rendered doubly intolerable by the glaring reflection from the white walls. The duty in this fort, is always considered as a severe punishment by the men who are appointed to it, for which reason the garrison is frequently changed; I believe once a week.

This fort which is highly commended by engineers, not only protects the har-

bour, but serves as a dreadful abode for its wretched prisoners. The first dungeon which I visited, contained seven white soldiers, who had taken an active part in a mutiny against the former commandant of San Miguel, who had impelled the men to it by his excessive cruelty. The sentence of death had long since been passed upon them, but still required to be confirmed by the Government of Lisbon. The dreadful close air of this dungeon, had induced them to throw off all their clothes, and their colourless skeleton figures, plainly bespoke the great misery in which they had been languishing for almost two years. Death had terminated the misery of two of their fellow-sufferers in the prison, during this time.

Another prison, which was quite dark, contained a negro prince who had formerly governed a province to the north-

east, probably, Sogno. He had caused the Portuguese envoys to be murdered, when they demanded the tribute which he had promised, and was at the same time contending for the royal dignity with his brother, the king of Congo, whose vassal he was. He fell into the hands of the artful Portuguese, by his own imprudence, and they had already kept him in the most deplorable condition imaginable, for full three years. The Governor-general told me that for forms sake, the prince was taken to the palace once a month for the ostensible reason of being examined, and always returned to his prison-house with renewed hopes of being soon set at liberty; whereas it had been long since decided to keep him there till the end of his days.

The Governor assured me, that this prince had been the most troublesome and dangerous enemy of the Portuguese

crown, and that his influence was so great among the negroes, that should he recover his liberty, he would be more eager than ever, to take vengeance on the European colony, to which he might prove a very formidable foe. The government could not ventnre to put him to a violent death, and they lately entertained a confident hope, that his hitherto robust constitution must soon give way beneath the harsh treatment, which he experienced in his loathsome dungeon.

The prince was always accompanied by the commandant of the fort, when he went to the palace, and a guard of soldiers followed at some distance. His pride was at first wounded, because he was attended by an inferior officer; for he himself possessed a general's uniform, in which he had invariably appeared in public; he was allowed to wear this uniform, in order that no unfavourable im-

pression might be made upon the resident negroes, as well as upon those from the interior. His name and fate must have been known far and near, for the negro caravans that came even from the greatest distances, invariably threw themselves upon their knees when he appeared on his way to the palace, and with downcast looks avoided meeting his eye. The universal solemn silence was interrupted only by a low murmur, like a prayer, to which he responded with dignified seriousness, as he walked between the lines. Not till he had long passed by, did they venture to look up and gaze after him with great reverence. Probably there was not a man among them who had the slightest idea that his glittering uniform was soon to be laid aside, and exchanged for galling fetters and links of iron.

When the keeper opened the massy door of his cell, he came out with slow

and languid steps; being hindered by the weight of his chains. He seemed much alarmed at the sight of several strange faces, till at length, encouraged by the kind words of the commandant, he inquired, in good Portuguese, from what country we came, and what was the purport of our visit? adding, that from our light hair, he thought we must be Englishmen. When Mr. dos Santos asked him, why he had rebelled, against his lawful queen? he replied very sensibly, that the Queen of Portugal was not his lawful queen; she had no right to govern in his country, for this prerogative belonged only to himself and his brother, the king of Congo. His tall, handsome figure, gradually regained its proud bearing, and he repeatedly demanded of us whether his release would be long delayed? observing, that it must take place, since he had not committed any crime, but had

only asserted his rights in opposition to Portugal, Upon this, the unfortunate prince was led back to his prison, which was to be his grave.

The third fort, San Pedro, is situated a league and a half from the town, at the end of the harbour, which not being very broad at that place, is commanded and protected by it. Here, again, as at San Miguel, the coast is a bare dark rock, but it is steeper and higher, so that the fort is elevated about one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea, and the highest part of this rocky coast may be nearly two hundred feet. The fury of the ocean incessantly vents itself on the rugged cliffs, dashing up mountains of white foam, which sprinkle the innumerable nests of gulls and sea-swallows, that hang on the sides of the fort, which, by the bye, does not look very unlike a swallow's nest at a short distance.

The fort, which was originally built by the Dutch, is furnished with only a small number of cannons, and would be very weak indeed if its position did not contribute greatly to its security. The garrison, consists of a few soldiers, and is likewise relieved every week from Loanda.

Besides a few decayed chapels, there are still three churches in Loanda, of which the cathedral, opposite the palace, is unquestionably the finest. The tower is handsome, and the interior is richly adorned with pictures and images of saints. The second church stands in the centre of the city close to the market-place; an ever-burning lamp is indeed maintained in it; but I never saw any person enter this church for devotional purposes. The third church, called "Nazario," lies at the north-end of the city, and seems to be the most frequented.

On Christmas-day, it was well lighted up in the evening, but the day was not at all observed at the other churches. San Nazario was crowded by negroes and negresses, dressed in their holiday attire, which they had been displaying all day in the streets. The entire wardrobe of the negresses, consisted of large handkerchiefs of different colours, which were put on with so much art, that however numerous they were, none were ever entirely concealed.

In the evening, the church was always crowded, and the floor so covered with persons kneeling, that we could with difficulty pass between the people.

Meantime, the priests, a mulatto, and a negro, dressed in full ecclesiastical costume, did their utmost to entertain their visitors. When Donna Catarina, with the physician and myself, approached, they instantly set before us a table spread

with wine and Brazilian sweetmeats, and cordially inviting us to partake of them, appeared to consider it their duty to set us a good example. As there was a constant succession of guests, it was no marvel that the two priests should at length fall victims to the performance of their duty as good hosts, and leave the church in a very tottering condition; nay, one of them had the misfortune to have his priestly garments torn in a little affray, as he was going home. This affair was afterwards talked of as a pleasant story, and nobody appeared to think it at all extraordinary.

The old Jesuits' college has long since fallen into ruins; and, except the above-mentioned priests, there is no trace remaining of the three convents of the Italian Capuchins, the third order of St. Francis, and the barefooted Carmelites.

One of the two priests still bears the

title of Bishop of Congo and Angola, but since the removal of the see from San Salvader to Loanda, this is merely a nominal title, and the influence of the Roman Catholic Church has entirely ceased in that powerful kingdom. The King of Congo embraced the Romish religion in the year 1491, and erected a wooden church in his capital, some remains of which are still said to be seen.

There are three market places in the town, one of which, near the custom-house, is properly speaking the fruit market, whereas in the two others, every kind of goods and productions of nature and art, both European and African, are sold. The fruit market is held daily, from five till eight o'clock in the morning, and is frequented by persons of all classes, the higher orders being followed by a slave. Here they purchase, at very reasonable prices, their supplies of fruit and vege-

tables, most of which are brought from the country near the river Bengo.

The two other markets are held in wide parts of the principal street of the city, and are filled with long rows of mat or linen tents. These markets which look like fairs, are excessively picturesque. In each of these tents, a handsome negress takes her station every morning, and displays to the best advantage her various stores of mats, baskets, scissors, knives, calico, negro pipes, &c., but she evidently expects that her beauty will of itself attract many customers. These small tents are taken down in the evening, and placed a little on one side, where they frequently serve for a lodging at night. Fruit and vegetables are likewise met with in great abundance in these two markets, and with the exception of potatoes, the place of which is supplied by yams and bananas: almost every kind of European

vegetables may be purchased. Here and there market women are seated between the booths, and they try to tempt the visitors to buy a red soup of Tomatos, which they expose in large earthen vessels and cocoa-nut shells cut in half: although this soup is not very inviting, it has nevertheless a pleasant acid taste and is very refreshing, as it quenches the thirst. These tomato sellers derive considerable profit from the numerous caravans, that pass through these fairs: and the majority of them are very well dressed, in togas, like the women in Benguela.

The streets of Loanda, except the two which lead from the lower to the upper town, are all unpaved; but in front of a few houses, small portions are elegantly inlaid with a sea-shell called *Arca Senilis*. Pavements, however, are not much needed, at Loanda, since the fine roads, which are naturally level and sandy, are not spoilt

by the transit of heavy waggons, or the frequent trampling of horses, and the fresh sea-breezes are too slight to raise any quantity of dust. There are not many carriages, indeed, only the Governor and two or three private individuals, possesses, such an accommodation. The Governor is always attended in his drives by the two officers on duty, and a couple of privates.

The heavy rains which flow in torrents from the mountains, make large and deep furrows in the roads, but they are immediately filled up and levelled by the negroes. Sometimes this gush of water is so impetuous that it sweeps away entire negro habitations, which are built on declivities upon the light sand.

To obviate this general devastation, a former Governor, Don Manoel Bierra Tovar d'Albuquerque, gave orders for the destruction of all the negro huts which

were not made of lime and stone. This was immediately done, and no slight huts were built for some years after; but at the present time, large districts of the town consist entirely of huts constructed in the old fashion. These little tenements are either round or square; they are built of bamboo or palm branches, roofed with reeds, and so negligently made that they afford but a slight protection against the wind and rain. There is not much comfort in these dwellings, for there are no beds, chairs, or tables, the bare ground serves for all such purposes; neither is there any hearth, because the inmates of the hut are usually seated round a small fire before the door. Generally speaking, the only household utensils are a few calabashes and an earthen pot for cooking. Fishing tackle is possessed only by the few individuals who go out to sea, for the purpose of fishing; but this class

of people is much less numerous here than in Benguela, because the neighbouring lake Magé amply supplies the town with fish.

Very few of the inhabitants possess any farming utensils, except a hoe, because scarcely any one takes the trouble of cultivating the ground near his dwelling. Occasionally they employ themselves in weaving baskets, of the large leaves of the fan palm; but their work, though strong, is not nearly so beautiful as the admirable basket-work of Cabinda, and of of the uncivilized negro tribes of the interior.

The island of Loanda, which, from the account of Pimentel, was between six and seven leagues in length, and in some places above one league in breadth, with a scattered population (according to Feo Cardoso,) of 2,000 inhabitants, has decreased very considerable in all its dimen-

sions; indeed I should say it is not more than half the extent above stated. There is likewise a great diversity in the soil; on the southern side are some very fertile spots, gardens, and cocoa-palms, and a small fishing-village, but in the northern part where the rich inhabitants of Loanda have erected their country-houses, the vegetation is very poor; there are only a few shrubs and cocoa-palms, and scarcely enough pasturage for a couple of goats.

The country houses appear to be almost forsaken by their owners, who scarcely ever reside there for any length of time. The sounds of cheerfulness and festivity are no longer heard there, for they are now used as a place of concealment for the slaves, being the last station to which they are consigned, when the merchant thinks that he can with safety freight his ship on the west-coast of the island. The few negroes, who are left in charge of the

houses, are employed at low water, in collecting the arca senilis, of which large quantities are always obtained, and burnt into lime. They also find here the oliva nana and cyprea moneta, two species of shells, which are carried in baskets to the town, and are there used in most of the caravans instead of money.

It is much to be regretted, that no attempt has been made to lay out pleasant walks or gardens in the environs of Loanda, for although the nearest mountains may be called bare, there are nevertheless many spots which afford a delightful prospect over the sea, the town, and the distant forests, as far as the Coanza and the Bengo. The only promenade is a fine avenue of different kinds of trees, leading from the town to fort Pennedo. In this shady retreat, the voices of numerous species of grasshoppers resound in the evening, and their shrill tones are so

piercing in the profound silence, that they may be distinctly heard at the distance of more than a mile.

Near this avenue, an Italian, who has acquired his wealth by the slave trade, has erected a pretty villa in the midst of an extensive orchard, and, as he frequently invites the inhabitants of Loanda to visit him, they invariably resort to this delightful promenade.

Very early one morning, when I accompanied Donna Catarina to this spot, and was admiring the amazing quantity of ripe cashew-nuts, which covered all the trees from the lowest branch to the crown, an immense swarm of locusts coming from the north-west, passed over our heads. They seemed to cover the whole town, so interminable was their extent. The foremost of these wanderers, appeared before six o'clock, and it was not till near ten that the whole flight had disappeared. It

is almost impossible to form any clear idea, of the extent of such a swarm, the dense mass of which so obscured the beams of the rising sun, that we were in a deep shade.

The arrival of these unwelcome visitors, cause no little commotion; all the negroes were instantly summoned and dispatched into the gardens, where they set up loud cries, and shouts, and beat about in the air with large bushes, in order, if possible, to prevent the swarm from settling. Happily their fight was so vigourous and rapid, that they passed over the town and probably did not alight till they reached the fertile banks of the Coanza; yet being impeded in their progress by the density of their mass, they fell to the ground in such numbers, that many were crushed at every step we took.

It is justly considered one of the greatest misfortunes that can happen, if the

whole of such a swarm alights, for in a few hours they destroy every leaf, and every blade of grass, and bring scarcity and famine in their train; such a partial falling of locusts, on the contrary, is a subject of great joy and delight to the negroes, all hasten with baskets and sacks, which they speedily fill and carry home in triumph; even the Europeans send out their slaves to collect the locusts, because they are thereby spared the expense of supplying them with food for some time, The negroes feed on them as a delicacy, and, for a week afterwards, I saw large baskets full of roasted locusts exposed for sale in all the streets. Our monkeys likewise, greedily devoured them, and were fed on them as long as they lasted. If a certain natural repugnance can be once overcome, it must candidly be confessed.. that the taste is agreeable; very much like that of the hazel-nut.

This was the second swarm that had threatened Loanda, within six years; the preceeding one took the same direction, and evidently sought the more luxuriant regions of the south. The inhabitants in general have a great dread of these swarms, even when they do not settle, because they are looked upon as the harbingers of a great drought: and without doubt it is the scarcity of water and food which causes them to migrate from their native country, probably from the high table-lands of the interior, or the fertile tracts on the river Zaire. Considering the great length of time that they can continue on the wing—many being often taken alive in the sea, at a distance of thirty, forty, and even fifty geographical miles from the nearest land,—it is difficult to determine where such a swarm may have commenced its flight. Their voracity is extremely great, for though, as

I said, they did not alight, yet on the following day, every tree and bush in and near Loanda, bore traces of their visit; even the thick leaves of the cocoa-palms, at our door, had not been spared by them.

In the healthy season of the year, namely, March and April, the Governor-general, accompanied by the principal inhabitants, is accustomed to undertake an annual hunting excursion to the river Bengo, which lasts several days. The chief object of this chase, is to shoot the crocodiles or alligators, which are so numerous in that river, that they can easily be killed from a house situated close to the river side. We were now in December—although heavy rains had fallen almost daily, within the last fortnight, and the number of sick among the Europeans began to increase considerably; yet the intervening portion of the day was clear and agreeable, though the sky was a

little obscured. The increased briskness both of the sea and land breezes, which blow at this season, likewise tended greatly to mitigate the heat, which seldom rose above 86° or 88° Fahrenheit.

Notwithstanding that this was the season of the heavy rains, yet in consideration of the presence of Mr. dos Santos, the Governor resolved to undertake this excursion immediately, and we accordingly set out, towards the end of December, accompanied by thirty-one whites, two of whom were born on the coast. The whole of the artillery was ordered out, and our party, including servants, slaves, and rowers, amounted to above two-hundred persons. Three of our boats left the ships before daybreak, the largest belonged to Mr. dos Santos, and was rowed by eight of his sailors, and steered by a pilot: each of the others, being rowed by four Cabindians. The majority of the company,

wished to proceed more quickly to the place of destination, which was three or four leagues distant, and accordingly they went thither by land, either on horse-back or in palanquins, which were carried by negroes.

We did not discern the the mouth of the Bengo, till we were within a very short distance of it. Its banks are singularly low, and its breadth certainly does not exceed twenty paces: at this particular season, it is narrowed still more by the accumulation of pieces of land, plants, and trunks of trees, which have been torn from the banks. Great numbers of sharks were swimming slowly off the mouth of the river, with their greedy jaws wide open, to catch whatever had escaped their equally voracious neighbour, the crocodile, or, indeed, any thing the river might bring down. We counted no less than nine large sharks, near our boat, at one time.

The conflict between the breakers and the current of the river; gives a peculiar motion to the water, the effect of which frequently causes large trunks of trees to be thrown directly across the mouth, which leaves so little depth of water, that only light canoes can pass over it. This was the case as we were entering it: the keel of our boat struck a submerged trunk with such violence, that we should certainly have been upset but for the calm composure of our sailors, which overcame every obstacle, and very skilfully brought us through. We were thankful at having escaped this evident danger, but we had no inclination for another such adventure, and hesitated proceeding any farther, till a negro took each of us singly, in his light boat through the breakers, and put us ashore. He then conducted us to a neighbouring hut, where, by the kindness of the Governor, we found re-

freshments prepared for us. The negroes very dexterously brought our boat into the mouth of the river, and after resting for a short time, we proceeded on our voyage.

Very heavy rains must have fallen in the interior, for the current of the river was so strong, that, though we had an excellent boat, and our eight sailors were indefatigable in their exertions, we were three hours and a half in making the last two leagues.

It was now mid-day, and the heat was so overpowering, that nothing, save the exquisitely rich beauty of the banks, could have enabled us to forget, nay, endure the scorching beams of the meridian sun. This beautiful river is so narrow, that the steersman was obliged to be on the watch, lest the sailors should get their oars entangled among the luxuriant plants, that overshadowed the banks. On either side,

rose a magnificent and impervious forest of the most varied vegetation: lofty trees, alternated with shrubs laden with all kinds of fruits, over which nature had flung an ever-verdent mantle of luxuriant climbing plants, so thickly adorned with the loveliest flowers, that the parent tree was almost entirely concealed.

'Nature here tries her finest touch,
Weaving her vernal wreath.'

Boughs of trees, interlaced with parasite plants, hung down into the water in such profusion, that not a spot of land was to be seen, and the buoyant stream, sporting with these gay garlands, produced a ceasless splashing, like the soft murmur of a fountain just springing from its source.

To add to the enchantment of this scene, the songs of thousands of birds resounded from the impenetrable thickets; here and there the long-legged spoonbill,

stood upon the margin with philosophical composure, till he felt his prey swim under his feet, when he suddenly seized it and flew away. The richly varigated parroquet, rocked itself on a flowery branch near the wild guinea-fowl, and as our boat glided smoothly along the silvery stream, the splash of our oars started innumerable birds of the gayest colours, in their quiet solitude. Flocks of monkeys looked at us inquisitively, as we passed along, and many, leaping from tree to tree, followed our boat for a considerable distance.

Altogether, our little excursion presented objects of the most varied and interesting kind. Sometimes large pieces of land covered with trees, some even bearing fruit, came drifting along, and our sailors were frequently obliged to exercise a good deal of dexterity to prevent our boat from coming into collission with

various objects that floated down the stream. Every moment, we met parties of negroes, who had been up the river to gather the fruits that grow along the banks, and who returned in the course of a few hours, their canoes filled with oranges, pine-apples, pomegranates, citrons, guavas, mangoes, bananas, &c. &c.; while others again were going back to Loanda, laden with water, which had been taken from the river. Wherever the eye turned, it rested on the most profuse luxuriance of nature, clad in an ever-smiling dress, and it was scarcely possible to realize the sterility of the adjoining country, while dreaming in this lovely paradise; yet the proximity of all extremes is no where more strongly manifest than here: amidst this transcendent beauty of nature, amidst those cheerful songsters—these gaudy butterflies—these sportive monkey tribes, and that lovely river which flows along

in such serene cheerfulness, lurk the hideous alligator and the poisonous snake, which carry destruction and misery in their train, and mar the quiet enjoyment of the exquisite charms of nature.

Wherever the banks are only covered with rushes, they are pressed down by the alligators, and paths which seem to be made by art, but which no human foot would venture to follow, betray their regular track. Indeed, if there were no other dangers, the swampy nature of the ground, as well as the dense, rank vegetation, would render it dangerous; nay, almost impossible to examine the neighbouring bank. Only the amphibious hippopotamus and the mighty rhinoceros, are able to break through this thicket, and, regardless of the voracious alligator, or of the gigantic snake which are ever on the watch for their prey, they here find an undisturbed retreat. Both these animals

are very rare in the Bengo, whereas, they abound in the Dande, and in the Coanza, which is at no great distance.*

On the right bank of the river, we passed two negro villages, the inhabitants of which were almost naked. Far removed from tyranny and oppression, they dwelt here in their little circular reed-huts, amid the greatest luxuriance,—the wild fruits that bounteous nature scatters, and the finny tribes that wanton in the stream, amply supply their daily food. This spontaneous provision of nature, almost supersedes the necessity for labour, and enables them to indulge in their supreme happiness,—that of doing nothing. The inhabitants, who were assembled on the banks, gazed at us in silent astonishment as we glided onward in our fine boats, and, dressed in strange European clothes; yet possibly, there were some among our

* Appendix A.

party who envied these unsophisticated children of nature, more than they did us.

Here and there, an isolated negro hut was lying in a spot which had been cleared by the axe, and was so thickly surrounded by the rank vegetation, that it was accessible only by boats on the side next the river. In some parts, the ground was so swampy that the huts were raised on stakes, and probably, there was scarcely ever a dry spot in their immediate vicinity, except during the intervals of the rainy seasons. A few of these huts stood so high, that even, at this time of the year, when the river was so much swollen, they were quite above its reach; they were surrounded by patches of maize, bananas, and manioc: the latter of which does not grow wild on a swampy soil.

We reached the end of our protracted, though pleasant, voyage at two o'clock, and were welcomed from the shore by a

salute of guns. Several of our party, who had travelled by land, and had started some hours after us, had already recovered from the fatigues of their journey, whereas, we arrived as exhausted as if we had taken violent bodily exercise. The Governor had planted six pieces of cannon in front of the house, which were discharged not only as we sat down to table, but every time a toast was given. Those who had brought not merely a good appetite, but were also desirous of enjoying the pleasures of the chace, were not much gratified at this incessant firing: which would probably scare away the wild animals, which they wanted to pursue.

The owner of Quifangondo, where we assembled, is the only white man in this little negro village, which consists of about thirty huts. He is a Portuguese, named Lion, and does full honour to his name;

insomuch, as far and near, he is considered the most skilful lion-hunter in the whole country; a character which is of essential service to him in this solitude, since he is frequently obliged to defend his numerous herds of cattle against the attacks of that formidable beast of prey. The house, which was constructed of boards, and thatched with rushes, contained four separate apartments, the largest of which was used as a dining room, where, during the two days of our visit, the tables were covered with a profusion of viands, which were served without intermission, even throughout the night. There was no end of our regaling; we were all in high-spirits, and no one seemed to think of the real object of our journey.

Immediately after dinner, a small rain began to fall, and continued almost without intermission, till night set in. I was thus unfortunately deprived of the oppor-

tunity of rambling about in the vicinity; for all the Europeans exclaimed against me, saying, that it would be tantamount to commiting suicide, if I were so imprudent as to run the risk of getting wet. Like a prisoner in his dungeon, my sole occupation was to gaze, with longing eyes, at the infinitely rich scenery, which lay before me, consoling myself with the hope that a brighter day would follow. The Bengo, which flowed close by, was no longer animated by a single boat, for the fruit-merchants of Loanda have no need to come so far up the river to collect their rich stores: everything seemed to be in a state of quiescence, not a bird or a monkey, was to be seen among the thick vegetation of the opposite bank; nay, I could not even discern a crocodile, although the party, now assembled had shot eleven of those animals, only a year ago, in front of the same house. The

objects continually drifting down the river afforded the only relief to this monotony.

Towards evening, we saw an unhappy runaway slave, with a little child by her side, and having both her arms bound with a rope, she was led past the house by the person who had been sent in pursuit of her, and who was conducting her back to her former state of slavery, in Loanda; where, after having suffered cruel punishment, the hardest fate undoubtedly awaited her.

The sun had scarcely set, when the numerous herds of well-fed cattle returned from the rich pasture, to be shut up for the night. Their pens were surrounded by a wall of stones and plaster, between eight and nine feet high; yet, even this fence did not afford complete protection against the wild beasts, for only a week before, a lion had leaped over the wall, and back again, carrying off a calf in his

jaws. He did no further mischief at this time, and succeeded in escaping with his booty, though he was immediately fired at, and pursued for a considerable distance. The marks of his claws were distinctly visible on the plaster of the wall.

Mr. Lion assured me, that it was no uncommon occurrence for a lion to attack a herd while at pasture in the day-time; and, from the mere love of slaughter, to kill a number of animals by striking them in the neck with his paw; ten or fifteen victims would seldom satisfy him; nay, on one occasion, no less than thirty-six oxen fell a prey to his fury. Scarcely any of them had an external wound, for the lion generally rips up the belly of one ox, and satisfies his hunger by devouring the entrails. I heard many tales of the cruelty of the lion, but no one knew any thing of his much-lauded magnanimity.

Last year, our host, when standing at his window, shot a lion which was about to leap over the wall of the cattle-pen; upon which, the wounded and enraged animal rushed into the house to seek his assailant; and not meeting him, was in the act of springing over the high reed partition, when he was struck by another ball, and fell dead to the ground.

The negroes, as well as the Europeans, are fully persuaded that the lion is never killed by the ball, but by the prodigious leap which he takes when wounded, to reach his enemy, in order, when dying, to inflict death in return by a blow of his formidable paw.

One of the company related, that in the new colony of Mossamedes, a wounded lion had leapt into a slave-yard, where, in an instant, he killed thirteen negroes and a white man, and then succeeded in taking flight.

The horses which our party had brought with them were placed under a shed, built for the purpose, and a large fire was kept up near it throughout the night, by negro watchers. This is a usual custom, and the only certain protection against wild beasts.

The night which I passed on the Bengo, if not the most fearful in my life, was certainly the most uneasy during my residence on the coast. The consciousness of being exposed to bodily fatigues in the unhealthy season of the year, on one of the most dangerous points of the coast, involuntarily excites the endeavour to use every possible means to ward off the fatal influence of the climate, and, generally speaking, a chief precaution for the preservation of health, is to secure quiet and refreshing sleep at night. Whenever a person has not had a good

night's rest, he is sure to say in the morning that he is not well, or, that he has the fever; for experience has perhaps taught him, that the climatic fever is nearly allied to the sense of uncomfortable excitement occasioned by a sleepless night.

The same expression is proverbial among the physicians at Loanda; for, whenever I inquired after the nature of a disorder, I invariably received the reply, "the patient has the fever;" or, "the patient has the typhus." The latter expression was current with my host, the physician, who was decidedly of opinion that every disorder on the coast which was not purely local, could be no other than the typhus, or, at the very least, a modification of it. Entertaining this view, which he said he had expounded at length in a Portuguese periodical, (unluckily I never saw this essay,) he was so perfectly

contented with himself, that he never resorted to any specifics except emetics, and as these were not generally known, he kept his own secret, while every one of his patients, who had survived this treatment, measured the violence of their disorder by the number of emetics which they had swallowed.

But, to return from this digression: as our hospitable friend Mr. Lion, in making preparations for his visitors, had been able to arrange only six small beds, and but three or four of us had been wise enough to provide ourselves with hammocks, the majority of our number were of course obliged to pass the night in a very comfortless manner, looking in vain for a quiet corner on the bare ground, in these over-crowded rooms. Many endeavoured to while away the night at play, or to procure sleep by drinking large quantities of wine.

I was completely exhausted by the heat and fatigue of the day, and was, moreover, the happy possessor of a hammock, and therefore retired to rest as soon as possible. But all my fond expectations proved a mere delusion; I had no means whatever of fastening up my swinging bed, but by attaching one end of it to a door, which was open and shut every minute, and kept me in perpetual motion. Scarcely had I lain down, when thousands of mosquitos united in a conspiracy to disturb my wished-for repose, by their continued buzzing and their poisonous stings. Although I had taken the precaution to keep on all my clothes, I wanted at least twenty hands to defend myself against the fury of these tormentors. Sometimes I made a desperate effort to beat them off, and then I fared like the horse with the bee in the fable, only with this difference, that their com-

bat terminated with a treaty of peace. Sometimes I lighted a cigar with equally bad success; nay, in my despair, I even swallowed copious draughts of Lisbon wine, but all completely failed in producing sleep. The composure of a stoic, acquired by many a hard fought battle, was alone able to change the vehement desire for sleep into quiet resignation. The result was, that I had not a wink of sleep throughout the live-long night; and at half-past four o'clock, when the discharge of the guns aroused the few happy slumberers, I arose from my hammock, unrefreshed, and so stung and scratched all over my body, that a gnat must have had Argus' eyes to discover an untouched spot.

To our great joy it did not rain, and four of us, well provided with shooting equipments, set out on an excursion, rowed by four negroes; we attempted to

go up the river against the stream; but the current appeared much stronger than on the preceding day, and we were soon obliged to quit our boat, and to proceed on foot along the bank, by a very tolerable path.

The gentlemen who accompanied me were very much struck by the almost total absence of every living creature, and could attribute it only to the firing, which had been incessant yesterday, and had already re-commenced this morning. The fruits of our excursion, which lasted nearly two hours, were a Guinea fowl and three small birds, and these were nearly the sum total of what we saw of the feathery tribe, consequently, it was not our fault that we were not better sportsmen. Every now and then we found the shells of tortoises, and in front of a negro hut, was a little bush, with three or four hanging on it; they were, doubt-

less, revered as fetishes by the sleeping inmates, to protect them against nightly attacks.

Our attention was suddenly attracted by a little negro hut, which lay quite detached on a swampy ground, in the midst of reeds and rank grass. It was made of rushes, neatly and skilfully woven, like our bee-hives, and so closely interlaced, that it was impossible the inmates could ever be incommoded either by the rain or the sun. But the extraordinary part of this little cot was, that it was scarcely five feet high, and three feet in diameter! It seemed scarcely possible that a man should dwell in it, and yet, whose abode could it be? One of us knocked at the little plank, which was set up by way of a door, at one side; the plank was soon removed, and the black inhabitant whom we had roused from his sleep, gazed at us with extreme anxiety. We started back at the sight

of his disgusting countenance, which resembled that of some frightful inhabitant of a bog, and one of the officers greeted him with the salutation, "*O! que feio bicho!*" (what a hideous reptile.) This human troglodite, for we could not compare him to any thing else, lived here alone, immured in his little cell, almost half a league distant from his nearest neighbours, scarcely two paces from the bank of the river, among reeds and rushes, or lay naked on the damp marshy ground in this dreary solitude, constantly in danger of being devoured by the crocodiles.

What might have induced this unhappy being to select such a desolate spot for his melancholy abode, and to prefer the society of the most odious creatures to that of his fellow mortals, seemed quite inconceivable. Had he, perhaps, been banished by his black brethren for some crime; or, did he act among them the

wretched part of a holy hermit? My subsequent inquiries on the subject were totally fruitless, neither could I obtain any elucidation of the mystery.

The rain again fell in torrents, and as the path became wetter, and was rendered almost impassable by the reeds and bushes, we set out on our return, each of us glad to make the rain an excuse for so doing. We were not long in regaining our boat, and, at landing, were received by the loud laughter of the party who had remained snugly at home. However, we quickly changed our clothes, and then partook of a hearty breakfast, as a preservative against fever.

A longer residence in this fertile district would amply reward a collector of natural history; and, above all, the Fauna of the country would yield him the finest booty. Although my excursion was so very short, I made a considerable addi-

tion to my entomological collection; and, if the river had not been so swollen, I should have obtained many shells, especially as Mr. Lion had a large lime-kiln near his house, where he burnt the fresh water shells, principally *galathea fasciata*, which were collected in great quantities near the neighbouring village.

I was very desirous of devoting this afternoon to an excursion to the monastery of San Antonio, which was only two leagues distant from Quifangondo, whence we could plainly see the fine lofty trees in the gardens, but the weather would not permit it. The owner of this monastary lives at Loanda, and never visits this beautiful place, which is totally abandoned by the ecclesiastics who formerly inhabited it. It is now quite desolate and forsaken, in spite of its picturesque situation on the first platform on the coast, and of its fine gardens; the chapel



is well arranged, and is still in good condition.

Towards noon the rain gradually abated, and Mr. dos Santos, who was as much exhausted as myself, urged our return. I fully participated in his wishes, and we quitted this interesting place together. The greater part of the company stopped till the following day, though they could devise no better way of amusing themselves than eating, drinking, and play.

We had much labour yesterday in rowing against the stream, and our descent was now proportionally rapid, so that we reached the mouth of the river in a quarter of an hour. Here a heavy rain, which came on suddenly, obliged us to take refuge in the cottage where we had obtained shelter and refreshment after our tedious passage in our way up.

Both Mr. dos Santos and myself returned much dissatisfied with the result

of our expedition, which was by no means commensurate with our expectations. We expressed our doubts as to the truth of the assertion, that alligators were so numerous in the river, upon which the inmate of the hut, a native of the country, immediately offered to catch one of them during our brief stay, if we would give him a small remuneration. We agreed to his proposition, and the mode of catching it was so original, that we had no reason to repent of having done so.

The intrepid fisherman immediately killed a sucking-pig, and ran a moderately thick stick through the entire length of its body, which he cut open. To the middle of this stick he attached an iron-chain, eight or ten feet long, by means of a clamp, and then farther elongated the chain by fastening a cord to it. Armed with two strong barbed iron lances, he went on board his light canoe, and put out

a short distance from the shore, while we remained in the hut watching his proceedings with great interest and curiosity. At a venture, he threw the pig into the river, and scarcely a minute had elapsed, ere a pair of enormous, widely extended jaws rose above the surface, and quickly disappeared with the treacherous prize. The fisherman took advantage of this moment, to fasten the end of the rope to his canoe, and, also to attach his two lances by long ropes to the boat. The voracious animal soon devoured his booty, and drew the boat, which, of course, followed his every movement, first to one side of the river, and then to the other, always seeking for the deepest water. The rope being continually drawn tighter and tighter, the alligator darted with great violence above the surface, whereupon the negro vigourously thrust the lance at his head, and the monster again dived. Certain of approaching

victory, he stood calmly with uplifted lance, watching for an opportunity of throwing it again, whenever his adversary might rise above the surface. We were much astonished at the man's patient assiduity, for there was once a pause of half an hour, during which the animal did not appear, but as he gradually became weaker, he rose more frequently, and at last always with his jaws wide open.

The numerous wounds inflicted by the lance, and consequent loss of blood, so completely exhausted the poor alligator, that he had great difficulty in drawing the boat after him; but suddenly collecting all his remaining strength, he pulled the boat on one side with such violence, that the fisherman fell into the water. In an instant he dexterously flung himself into the boat, and continued to strike his antagonist with his harpoon. The combat lasted nearly an hour and a half, when

the alligator yielded, without resistance, to the superior force of the negro, who gradually brought his boat alongside of us, and then suddenly leaping on shore, fastened the rope to a cocoa-palm in front of his hut. He then fearlessly approached the animal, which was nearly covered with water, and deprived him of all possibility of escape, by inflicting several deep wounds. Life was not extinct, when the alligator was abandoned to its fate, but it was devoted to inevitable death; and when we gave the man his promised guerdon, he observed, coolly, that he would gladly exhibit a similar proof of his skill every day.

This animal was above twenty feet long, but we were assured, by many persons, that alligators are frequently found here twenty-five feet in length.

After this long, but not uninteresting delay, we hastened homeward, and having

received proper instructions, succeeded in passing the mouth of the Bengo, without much difficulty. The rain fell incessantly all the way to Loanda, but the pleasant anticipation of passing a quiet night which should indemnify us for all our discomforts, kept up our spirits, and we reached home about six o'clock. My face was dreadfully disfigured by the attacks of the ravenous mosquitos, which subjected me to the laughter of my host and Donna Catarina for several days.

Our flotilla was now gradually dispersing; two of our vessels had quitted the harbour of Loanda for Benguela, and another for Rio Janeiro, where she was to take in a cargo for Europe. Our smallest vessel, the Esperança, was purchased by Donna Anna, who intended to employ it on the coast, for conveying goods to her establishments in Mossamedes, and in the Island of San Thomé.

During my stay at Loanda, I had made preparation for a lengthened residence at Benguela, as that country was the richest in natural productions, and appeared the most favourable for carrying on scientific researches. With this view, I succeeded in obtaining the appointment of Cirurgiao mór, from the General Government, which furnished me with the necessary papers, and gave me the promise that I should succeed the chief physician of Angola, who was about to return to Europe.

In anticipation of my soon occupying that post, Messrs. Grosbendner and Wrede started five weeks before me, on board two of our vessels, and took up their abode at the residence assigned to me, in order to commence their collections without delay.

The communication between Loanda and Angola being very infrequent, we had

not received any account whatever of these two vessels at the time of our departure from Loanda. Generally speaking, the intercourse is carried on by sea, and the vessels keep as close in shore as possible, in order to have the benefit of the land breeze, and thus to overcome the strong current from the south; there is, also, a communication by land, but it is not very regular, and is attended with great danger, because the inhabitants of the intermediate country of Quisama are very savage, and care but little for the treaties which have been repeatedly concluded with the Portuguese. The inhabitants of Quisama carry on a great trade in rock salt, which abounds in this vast territory.

I embarked on board the Vasco da Gama on the evening previous to our departure; and at four o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th of January, we weighed anchor, and

commenced our last voyage on the coast to Benguela.

The health of our crew was excellent: scarcely a man was disabled from duty, and we had lost only one on board all our vessels. He was a sailor belonging to the Esperança, and had died a few days previous to our departure, of the climatic fever. This favourable state of things, during the Carneirade, a season which is peculiarly dangerous to Europeans, naturally led us to expect that we should find Benguela in an equally satisfactory condition.

We had been only four days at sea, when four of the sailors who had attended us to the Bengo, were seized with illness as suddenly as though they had been struck by some poisonous exhalation. On the following day, the four others were attacked in a similar manner, and Mr. dos Santos likewise complained of feeling un-

well. I attribute these attacks of sickness to our late visit to the Bengo, but it seemed extraordinary that I was the only individual of that expedition, who remained free of every kind of indisposition. On my return to Loanda, some weeks afterwards, I found that the Bengo expedition had there also been attended with the most lamentable consequences; after the interval of a fortnight, the whole party was seized with climatic fever; only the two whites, who were natives of the coast, had escaped, and their surprise was very great when they found that I had been equally fortunate. Many of the party, who were attacked by this kind of typhus fever, died between the fifth and ninth days; and though recovery was not uncommon, yet relapses often took place, which almost invariably terminated fatally.

Mr. dos Santos rapidly grew worse, and on the seventh day of his illness, a

few hours after our arrival at Benguela, he fell a victim to this fearful disease, and with him the whole expedition lost its head, its soul, and many of us a dear friend.

We had been absent only two months, but how wonderful was the change which had taken place in the interim! The harbour presented a most desolate appearance: with the exception of the man-of-war on the station, there was not a single vessel at anchor; and instead of the numbers of Europeans, whose daily visits were almost troublesome, not a single individual came on board. Nay, even our newly established house, which for six weeks had been conducted by four Europeans, three of whom were members of our expedition, sent us neither a welcome nor intelligence of any kind. A death-like silence and solitude pervaded the town, and produced an anxious and ungenial impression, and

the natural scenery, which seemed yet more beautiful than before, encompassed the lonely town with deceitful splendour and abundance, and gave to the scene a peculiar saddening character. We turned for information to the officers of the Portuguese' guard-ship, who, alas! soon explaned this mystery. The season of the great rains had set in, during our absence, and there was scarcely a white inhabitant who had escaped the influence of the poisonous breath of this pestiferous season. But these few who were spared, shut themselves up, as in a prison-house for two months and a half, carefully avoiding every exposure to the influences of the climate, except in cases of absolute necessity; all seemed to be looking forward anxiously to the month of March, which would once more permit them to enjoy their existence, or to recruit their shattered health.

In reply to our inquiries, respecting our

house, we were informed that there, also, every body was sick; my anxiety was so great, that I could not rest till the following day for more positive information; and, accordingly, I went on shore the same night, or rather at two o'clock in the morning, accompanied by a few attendants. After knocking a long time, the door was at length opened by a negress, who was still half asleep, who, to our hurried questions respecting the health of our friends, shrugged her shoulders, and conducted us up stairs. Here a melancholy picture presented itself; in a spacious chamber, exposed to the constant draught of the chill night air, which penetrated the dimly-lighted ill-closed window shutters, lay the four Europeans to whom the management of our house had been confided only a few weeks before. With the exception of a young Portuguese who had resided for two years

in different parts of the country, they were all in the most deplorable condition.

My poor friend, Grossbendner, who had come here only three weeks before, and who was evidently drawing near to death, anxiously implored me to have him conveyed on board immediately, so that he might leave this unblest country, and return to his distant home. He had received intelligence of the sudden death of his colleague, Mr. Wrede, which seemed to have greatly shaken him, and confirmed his resolution of returning to Hamburg without delay. I instantly made preparations to comply with his earnest wish, and had him conveyed, on board our vessel the following day; but, unhappily, in spite of the best attendance, and most careful treatment, he found his grave, not indeed, in the fatal soil of Africa, but in the waves of the Bay of Guinea, near the island of Annabon. Although the

partially recovered from the debilitating coast fever, yet, in the course of a few weeks, repeated relapses terminated a life which had held out such bright prospects.

The chief agent of our house, Mr. Heyne, a young man of Altona, who had left Europe a few weeks before us, was also dangerously ill. He received from me, with melancholy gratitude, the last fond greeting of affection from his native home, his anxious parents, brothers, and sisters, and expired only two days afterwards. The other two patients were Portuguese natives of the Azore islands; we took them on board, where they recovered very slowly, and joyfully quitted Benguela to return home.

The melancholy fate of so many with whom I had once had intercourse, damped all the hopes and prospects of my future residence in Benguela; nay, the dissua

sions of friends had so powerful an influence on me, that I began to hesitate whether or not I should enter on my office as chief physician. In fact, it needed but little persuasion to deter me altogether from this purpose. The very morning after our arrival, intelligence was brought of several other deaths, and this confirmed me in my resolution not to remain in Benguela; I was inspired with a degree of longing instantly to quit this melancholy place, which appeared to me like one vast charnal-house. The place of the Governor, who was still detained, *ad interim*, at Loanda, by way of punishment, was supplied by a good-natured mulatto, who, although he could not give me my discharge without the consent of the general Government, nevertheless, facilitated my retirement from Benguela by acceding to my request, to return to Loanda, and thereby afforded me an opportunity of retiring altogether.

Our ship was detained in the harbour of Benguela till the 25th of January, not because business rendered this delay necessary, but because the authorities made a point of withholding the requisite papers as long as possible, in order to enhance the charges to the very utmost. Our captain complained bitterly, and certainly not without reason, of the continual chicanery and the numerous obstacles which were thrown in his way, and a kind of petty tyranny which he declared were exercised more oppressively by the Portuguese than by any other nation.

We again touched at Novo Redondo, but our visit was nearly useless; for we found that the death of Mr. dos Santos had defeated all the hopes of the commercial transactions, for which Nicalao Tabana had already made arrangements. I here learnt the particulars of the melancholy end of Mr. Wrede. According to the general

opinion, his death was occasioned by the apparently simple circumstance of having been sometimes wet through from exposure to the dew and rain.

We left Novo Redondo on the 28th of January, and, on the 30th, cast anchor under Fort San Pedro, where our pilot had purposely laid our ship. At the same time, we received orders that we should not allow any person to come on board our vessel, and a soldier, who was desired never to leave the deck, was appointed as a guard, to see that these orders were enforced. We were quite at a loss, and utterly unable to solve the enigma, why we were commanded to anchor so close under Fort San Pedro, till one of the other captains of our expedition came near our ship, and brought us the unpleasant tidings, that his ship, as well as one of the others, had been sequestrated, a measure which was taken solely at the

instance of a house at Rio Janeiro, for unsatisfied pecuniary demands.

No notice whatever was taken of us or our ship for four days; and our captain at length concluded that he was entirely forgotten; and, as he had put into the harbour of Loanda without any particular object in view, he formed the very natural resolution of taking advantage of the darkness of the following night, and thus escaping from this apparently unjust constraint.

Our stock of provisions was so much reduced, that it was deemed unadvisable to put out to sea; and the captain resolved, first to coast it to Ambriz, a free negro territory, where we should have nothing to fear from the Portuguese tribunals. The anchor chains and chain cable were carefully wrapped up in tow, so that, notwithstanding the silence of the night, the very slight noice which they made, could not be heard in the neigh-

bouring fort; and, in a few minutes, the ship began to move slowly onwards.

The night was perfectly calm and quiet, the sea as smooth as a mirror, and the land wind so very faint, that in the course of an hour, we were scarcely beyond the reach of the guns of the fort. The poor soldier, to whose special charge we were confided, was compelled to submit, *nolens volens*; we promised him a free passage from Ambriz to Loanda, and a small recompence in money. All our ship's company was in hopeful expectation; our numerous invalid sailors, who were fully persuaded that a longer stay would prove fatal to them, and were ardently desirous of being in the open sea, and on their return to Europe, were inspired with fresh courage, and hopes of recovery; while those who were in health were delighted at leaving this coast, which had proved the grave of so many of their comrades.

Meantime, we were all in the greatest suspense; the wind we so much needed, and which would have been welcome, even in the shape of a storm, would not spring up; and we already pictured to ourselves the approaching dawn of the morning, with the hated coast quite near, and a ship of war in full pursuit of us. But our fears were even more than realised; the splash of distant oars struck on our listening ear, and suddenly our ship was simultaneously boarded on both sides by sixteen soldiers and an officer, who, without much ceremony took the command, and turned the vessel towards the harbour. Thus, all our short-lived hopes were destroyed, and, to our no small vexation, we found ourselves in the morning again quietly at anchor in the harbour of Loanda. Here we were so closely watched by the little brig Audaz, and by the forts Pennedo and San Pedro, that

all possibility of escape was taken from us.

I would here consult any fugitive under similar circumstances, to defer his attempt at escape till towards morning, when the land breeze is rather stronger, or has just got up, otherwise he may fare no better than we did.

The fever, which was still raging on shore, had attacked many of the principal inhabitants, several of whom were suffering in consequence of their late expedition with us to the river Bengo; among these, was the Governor General, whose brother-in-law and aid-de-camp had died a fortnight before. Hence many of the public offices were thrown into confusion, and filled by very incompetent persons, and seemed to have fallen into the hands of an arbitrary power, which was not restricted by any law. All the money on board was seized as the property of Mr.

dos Santos, and our papers, books, &c., were carried off by mulattos, who appear to have lost a great portion by the way; nay, they even went so far as to take his wardrobe, uniform, valuable jewels, &c., and to sell them by public auction.

These unprincipled officials, constantly came backwards and forwards to see if there were any thing remaining, on which they could possibly lay their hands, and they were never slow in finding something worth taking, which had before escaped the sequestration; at length, on the 25th of February, when our shamefully plundered vessel had nothing more to tempt their cupidity, they very generously gave us leave to return to Europe! Our two other ships, the Sultana and Georgiana, had been released a short time before.

Our house in Loanda, after having been for some time under seal, was also released from the sequestration, on the declaration of

Mr. Fonseca, that he was the rightful owner of every thing that had been intrusted to him, and he was thus enabled to carry on business, without molestation, on his own account. We instantly weighed anchor, and congratulated ourselves, when in a few hours we lost sight of Loanda and its degraded inhabitants. On the following day we anchored off Ambriz, thankful in the conviction that we were now safe from the dishonorable measures of the Afric-Portuguese authorities.

CHAPTER VIII.

Observations on the Natural Productions of Angola—Indolence and Ignorance of the Portuguese—Production of the Vegetable Kingdom: Cotton, Timber, Acacia, Gum, Aloes, Cactus, Ricinus, Indigo, Sugar, Tobacco, Coffee, Spices, Maize, Manioc—The Mineral Kingdom: Iron, Copper, Sulphur, Rock-salt, Asphalta, Gypsum, Gold—Abandoned Iron Mine—The Animal Kingdom: comprising every African Quadruped, except the Camel—Wild Buffaloes and Goats—The Musk Ox—The Elephant—The Rhinoceros—The Hippotamus—Bees—The Cochineal Insect—Fish—Character of the Bengo Negroes, not naturally inferior in Intellectual Capacity to the Whites—Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton's Work on "The Slave-trade and its Remedy"—Liberia—Extraordinary Talent for Modern Languages.

I cannot dismiss my account of the Portuguese possessions on the coast of Angola, without subjoining the few particulars, which I have been able to ascertain, respecting the productions of this rich

country, and the account to which they may be turned. The manifest scantiness of these remarks will be readily excused, on account of the shortness of my residence, and the impossibility of obtaining any information from a competent resident European. I was consequently entirely dependent on my own personal observation, for the acquisition of knowledge on this interesting subject.

All the Portuguese possessions, along the entire coast of Angola, are extremely rich in the most varied productions of the three kingdoms of nature. The mineral kingdom has been the least investigated, and is, consequently, the most imperfectly known, and the incredible indolence and ignorance of the Portuguese, have left even the animal and vegetable kingdoms almost wholly unexplored.

The land is every where covered with plants, whose value and importance is

neither known nor appreciated. Extensive fields of the finest cotton, are skirted by the noblest forests of excellent timber; groves of acaçia, which exude an abundance of fine gum, are intermingled with gigantic euphorbia, and large plantations of aloe stand side by side with the most splendid cacti, whose spines, a foot in length, oppose an impenetrable barrier to every intruder.* The valuable indigo plant everywhere luxuriates spontaneously, and often covers large tracts; in other parts, coffee also grows wild, and is said to be of a finer quality than that of Brazil. The banks of most of the rivers, abound not only in bamboo and other valuable reeds, but in sugar-cane of a superior kind. In a word, a more lavish profusion of the bounties of nature, can scarcely be conceived, than that which meets us at every

* The palma christi (*Ricinus*), bears abundance of oleaginous fruit, even in the less fertile parts, &c.

step on the coast, or at least, at a short distance from it.

Loanda is the least fruitful part of the Angola coast, with which I am acquainted. The environs of the town, may, comparatively speaking, be called barren; patches of indigo, ricinus, a few euphorbia, cacti, cocoa-palms, and many small fan-palms, tamarinds, with three or four gigantic adonsonia, and some cultivated fruit trees, constitute almost the entire vegetation of the whole district from Loanda, to the northern and southern rivers, up to the first terrace.

Ambriz, and Novo Redondo, on the other hand, and above all Benguela, lie in a region which yields every valuable production of the vegetable kingdom in Africa, in the richest abundance. Incalculable advantages might be derived from the judicious use of these voluntary gifts of nature, and when the slave-trade shall

have ceased to stifle every other interest, Angola will speedily furnish the European markets with costly drugs, excellent timber, and many other valuable articles.

Wherever the ground is not too swampy, the finest cotton thrives without care. I was assured that it is much longer threaded than the Brazilian, and consequently superior, yet no use whatever is made of it by the Europeans; there is indeed one small fenced cotton plantation near Benguela, but the owner makes no more use of than did his more industrious predecessor. In some rare instances, in Loanda, I saw a negress spinning thread, from the newly gathered cotton; I was told, that a good cloth is manufactured from it, especially at Cabinda, but I never met with it.

The few women whom I saw engaged in spinning, used a thin distaff, about which the cotton was wound very smoothly

with the fingers, a small stone or piece of wood is attached to one end, in order that the suspended distaff may keep turning round more easily. The thread, which is twirled between two fingers of each hand, is turned over a second stick, which the woman holds with both hands. This method, which is very like that formerly employed in Germany, and now used in Russia, is extremely simple, and an industrious negress might readily occupy herself in spinning, even as she walks along.

Indigo is reckoned among the wild plants throughout the whole coast; and is, in fact, treated like a noxious weed. During the time of the Jesuits, there was a small plantation of indigo at the mouth of the Coanza, which is said to have produced an abundance of very fine indigo at that time; but there are now scarcely any traces left of its former locality and extent.

Since those days, no European has made any similar attempt, although the cultivation of this valuable plant would unquestionably yield incalculable advantages, as the climate and soil are said to be peculiarly favourable to this branch of industry.

The same observation is applicable to the tobacco plant, which also grows wild in many places, but the mode of preparing it is wholly unknown on the coast, although the consumption of this article is something quite immense. Large quantities of tobacco are brought to the coast for sale from Bamba, and other districts of the interior; it is prepared with a very pungent sauce, and is twisted of three twines, like our European rolled tobacco, and is sold by the ell or foot. The negroes not only smoke this twisted tobacco, but also use it for snuff; for which latter purpose it is thoroughly dried in the sun,

and put into a small wooden or ivory box, and reduced to a fine powder, by means of a thin stick.

The lovers of snuff, generally, have one of these boxes slung over their waist-cloth; and I constantly saw them in the caravans that came from the distant provinces of the interior. The negroes are so excessively fond of tobacco, that they frequently convert the remnants of cigars into snuff, and I was often amused, when walking out, to hear some negro closely following me, sometimes to a great distance, till I threw away the end of my cigar, which he eagerly picked up and considered himself amply rewarded for his trouble.

The common clay tobacco pipes, which are chiefly manufactured at Loanda, are generally used by the natives; but they are particularly fond of their calabash pipes. For this purpose, they scoop out

a large calabash, into which they insert the point of a funnel shaped head of black clay, and the smoke escapes through an aperture at the opposite side of the fruit. The negroes generally regale themselves with this cumbrous smoking apparatus, when lying on the ground, as it is rather difficult to manage, and both hands are required to support it when they are walking. These pipes are variously ornamented with carved devices, or brass-nails disposed in the form of figures.

In some districts, the coffee plant is said to be frequently found wild, particularly in Enconge, whence it is brought to Loanda for sale, in small sacks made of matting. This coffee is very excellent, but the negroes sometimes pluck the berries before they are ripe, which of course renders the quality very inferior, and, in that state, it is considered of little value in the market. It would appear, that

coffee does not grow near the sea-coast, for I took some pains to ascertain this fact, and nobody could show me a plant in such a locality.

The sugar cane, which grows in abundance on the banks of all the rivers, is very tall, thick, and juicy, and, as far as I could learn, has hitherto never been used to make either sugar or rum, though both these articles are important staple commodities. Some of the negroes chew the cane when it is fresh cut; but it is more frequently employed in building huts, or in making fences.

I never saw any native spices, except pepper, which is eaten in large quantities at almost every meal; but I was informed that cloves, cinnamon, and nutmeg grow in abundance in Prince's island, and on some parts of the coast. Ginger abounds in the environs of Loanda, and the fresh roots may be daily purchased in the

market; but, for want of sugar, it is never preserved, and is only used by the Europeans in piquant sauces.

Manioc, rice, and maize are the only productions of the country, which are partially cultivated for the food of man: the least attention is paid to rice, although there are extensive tracts, which might be advantageously laid out for that purpose. Maize, too, is, on the whole, but little cultivated; because, in many places it grows spontaneously in such abundance, as amply to supply a small consumption.

Manioc or Tapioca, is the most indispensable of these three productions for the negro, and is likewise used by many Europeans. The thick and large root of this plant is taken out of the ground at certain seasons of the year, and rubbed on a large grater over a barrel. The sediment which remains, after frequent washing, is beaten into a coarse powder,

in a wooden mortar, and then dried in the sun. The mortars are made of the thick clump of trees, and there are generally four or six of them standing in front of the hut of the negroes, who employ themselves in preparing this flour. It is a universal custom among the Europeans to have a small round straw basket standing by each plate at dinner; this is filled with manioc-flour, of which, most of them take a little while eating. The basket generally contains also a small cake, or piece of bread.

Besides the above-mentioned nutritious plants, a small delicate bean, called Mandona, is grown on the coast: it is eaten both as a vegetable, and in the form of flour, as well by the whites, as by the natives.

Corn, particularly wheat and rye, is said to be found growing wild in the forests, at some distance from the coast

for instance, in Caconda; but it appears to be little, if at all, used by the negroes, and specimens were now and then brought to the coast.

Some advantage might probably be derived from tamarinds and ricinus, which abound every where, but have never been employed as an article of trade. Tamarind juice has, indeed, been occasionally used in the hospitals at Loanda, both as a beverage and a medicine, but the value of the ricinus is scarcely known, although the oil, which is obtained from Brazil, is in constant requisition.

A species of dye-moss is gathered in considerable quantities, and sold under the name of *ursella*; but this plant does not belong to the family of the roxellaria, but is a lichen, which grows on the trunks of low trees. It is said to contain a great body of dye, and a cargo, which one of our ships took from Benguela to Loan

was sold at a higher price than the ordinary mosses of the African islands.

It may be confidently assumed, that with the entire cessation of the slave-trade, and the consequent prosperity of trade and commerce, that the productions of the vegetable kingdom, will greatly increase, and that the valuable drugs in particular, will soon form a most lucrative article of export. It is much to be regretted, that no botanist, who has visited the forests and marshes of Angola, has ever yet given us any information respecting these treasures of the floral kingdom.

The finest timber, and various kinds of dye-woods, abound in the forests of the interior, and on the mouths of the rivers: small quantities of the dyes are occasionally exported, but the timber seems to be used only for home consumption. Saw-mills have been erected on the banks of the Coanza, whenever any building was

in progress, but it was no sooner finished, than the mills were abandoned, and suffered to go to ruin. The timber required at Loanda, is now ordinarily brought from the river Bengo, which is more convenient than to fetch it from the Coanza, which is at a much greater distance. Three years ago an attempt was even made at Loanda to build a little war-sloop, which was to serve as a guard-ship on the coast, the timber for which was likewise brought from the Bengo. Unhappily, the attempt failed, through the ignorance of the builder, and the vessel, though complete, is quite unfit for sailing, and now lies useless in the harbour of Loanda.

One of the trees most prized by the negroes on the banks of the river, is the mafumeiro, the tall, slender trunk of which they make into canoes. The stem of this tree is pretty thickly covered with sharp

spires, from the root to the summit, so that it is impossible to climb it. This wood is very soft, and a single negro can hollow out the largest trunk with his axe, and make a handsome large canoe within six or eight weeks, while he can finish the smaller canoes in the course of a month.

Ebony, mahogany, packwood, &c., likewise abound in the forests; hitherto, these woods have been turned to very little account; but some ships from the Uha do Principe, are annually freighted in part with the finer sorts.

Among the most important articles of export, are the resinous gums of which the gum copal* is the most abundant. This gum is brought to the coast by

* The best copal comes from the province of Para, where an extensive trade was carried on in the time of King Don José, and many establishments founded there for this purpose, through the instrumentality of the Marquis of Pombal.

the negroes of the interior, in small bags made of matting; and to judge from its appearance, seems to have been collected from plants of different kinds. The gum, exuding from the branches of the acasia, is not unfrequently mistaken for copal. There are vast numbers of acacias, especially in the vicinity of Benguela, from every branch of which oozes a gum, which cannot be distinguished from the gum arabic, except that the pieces are smaller, in the form of drops, for which reason it is probably not thought worth gathering. Gum kino is likewise found in the interior, and, together with dragon's blood, aloe, and countless other medicinal productions of the vegetable world, will, doubtless, soon become articles of trade.

The preparation of the palm oil, which the abundance of these noble plants seems peculiarly to invite, is comparatively neglected in Portuguese-Angola. The

negroes, it is true, make as much as is necessary for their own consumption, and for the kitchen of the Europeans; but, nothing is exported, or, at most, but very small quantities. On the breaking out of the revolution, in 1820, an attempt which had just been made to export palm oil to Brazil, was put a stop to; and this promising branch of trade has not since been resumed with any beneficial result. The plant which produces the best oil is the *arachis hypogæa*, which is called, on the coast, amendoim and mandobim, a name given also to the oil. Both the Europeans and the natives employ it in their cookery, and the latter, als anoint themselves with it; it is used by some persons as a finer kind of lamp oil.

The *demdem*, another plant of Angola, yields a reddish oil, which is much liked. It is obtained by the pressure of the small fruit, which resembles the cocoa-nut, and,

like the palm oil, is used by the negroes of the interior and the coast, for oiling their bodies. It is also used as a medicine, and is said to form a considerable branch of trade in the interior.

The mineral kingdom of Angola, that important source of wealth, has been scarcely investigated by the Portuguese, and consequently is, as yet, but little known to us, though the weapons and metal ornaments of the negroes, sufficiently prove that the most useful ores, iron and copper, are found in great quantities in many provinces; yet, Portugal has not opened any such mines, and the very inadequate attempts to make discoveries in this domain, have hitherto been almost ineffectual. Iron, copper, sulphur, rock salt, asphalt, *(oleum petra)* and gypsum, are the most valuable and ordinary productions of the country, but as the original adventurers, impelled by lust of gain,

sought only to find rich gold mines, they entirely overlooked, or disdained every other mineral; the present possessors have hitherto derived no advantage from these immense sources of wealth.

It is proved, from the reports of the Portuguese commandants, Joao José Pereira da Nobrega, and Joaquim Girado da Fonseca do Amaral Gorgel, that there are gold mines in the kingdom of Congo, in the district of Bailundo, and in Golungo; and, Nicolas de Abreo, commandant in that part of the country, states, that gold was washed by the negroes on the river Lambige. Nevertheless, Portugal has not known how to avail herself of the advantage placed within her reach by these important discoveries. For a long time the Portuguese were entertained by fallacious hopes of the riches of some gold mines in the kingdom of Congo, which were ceded to them in treaties of peace by the ancient negro

sovereigns; but the cunning of the Africans was always a match for their avarice; and, by filling up the mines, they deprived the Portuguese of all knowledge of their exact locality.

Gold articles, wrought by the Congo negroes, are extremely rare in Angola, and are never worn by the inhabitants of the coast. In a very few cases only, I saw gold arm, ancle, and ear-rings, in the possession of negroes from some unexplored country in the interior. Ornaments of gold are sometimes seen on the weapons, especially on the sword-hilts of savage tribes; but they do not appear to be by any means skilful in the art of working them; and, at all events, are much inferior to those which are manufactured by the inhabitants of North Guinea, particularly those of Cacheo and Bissao.

Iron is found in abundance in the country, and is unquestionably a far more

useful metal to the negroes than either gold or silver; respecting the latter of which, moreover, the accounts are very doubtful. In many districts, an ample supply is procured for home consumption, by a very little labour; and, notwithstanding, their great ignorance in the art of mining, the natives are able to obtain so much of this highly prized metal, both for themselves and for distant tribes, with whom they trade, that the importation is never thought of.

In the reign of Don José Donna Maria, when Francisco Innocencio de Sousa Continho was Governor of Angola, a number of European miners were sent thither to work the rich iron mine at Nova Oiras; and under the short-lived guidance of that Governor, who rendered most important services to the Portuguese colony, this undertaking was very successful. Considerable quantities of that valuable ore were

obtained, and Francisco Innocencio, even established iron foundries, where many cannon were cast, some of which are still in the various forts of Loanda. Ragnal, speaking of the iron of these mines, says, that it is the best in the whole world; and the same fact is affirmed by Duprat, in his "Histoire Philosophique et Politique," Liv. xi. xviii. These great and promising attempts unhappily terminated with the reign of Don José, and we now seek in vain for the remains of those works; for even the name of Nova Oiras is unknown, and the mines are altogether forgotten.

An attempt to resume the work begun by Don Innocencio, was made in modern times by Antonio de Saldanha da Gama, Count of Porto Santo, who also held the post of Governor; but his efforts were rendered abortive by the want of cooperation on the part of Government; in consequence of which, he enjoined the

negro chiefs or sobas, to pay their annual tribute in iron bars. In this, too, he was unsuccessful; for, in spite of all his injunctions, no iron was ever brought to Loanda, either for the payment of the tribute, or for sale.

During the government of Don Tovar, two iron mines in Cavillo, in the district of Golungo, were worked with great activity, under the immediate direction of the Deputy Governor, Joaquim Girardo da Fonseca do Amaral Gorgel. The neighbouring sobas were obliged to furnish 242 workmen daily, and four iron bars were obtained without the slightest difficulty; but neither did this undertaking prosper. The workmen were ill treated, and impositions of every kind were practised upon them, which made them greatly dislike the work, and many absconded daily, so that the undertaking soon came to a stand. They received but a poor recom-

pence for their toil; neither bread nor manioc was given for their daily subsistence, and they were placed upon the meagre ratio of some cacussos, a fish which is scarcely as large as the palm of the hand, and is dried in the sun. It is true, these were regularly sent at the expense of the Government, from the Presdio Maxima, but not in the quantity prescribed by the regulations. Naeves relates, that instead of 7260 cacussos, only 1200 were furnished, in consequence of which, each workman did not receive one of these small fish per diem. It was, therefore, nothing more than might have been expected, that the men thus defrauded and ill-used, should run away, and that the iron mines should soon be entirely abandoned.

The reports transmitted to Portugal were of course prejudicial to the negroes, inasmuch as they averred that every un-

dertaking failed, from their indolence and unskilfulness; whereas, it is obvious to an impartial observer, that the true cause of the abandonment of the design was solely attributable to the rapacity and dishonesty of the Portuguese.

The same fact holds good to this day in other matters; and so long as the Portuguese supremacy continues to oppress the African, things will remain in the same unsatisfactory state, nor will the negro ever have an opportunity to overcome the haughty prejudices of the Caucasian race, or to place himself on an equal footing.

This vast source of profit will unquestionably again attract attention, at no distant period of time; and if the accursed slave-trade shall then have ceased to stifle every good in its very birth,—then, and then alone, will useful arts and industry begin to flourish. Large

quantities of iron are used by the natives in manufacturing their weapons; but when agriculture shall be generally introduced, this ore will be in far greater request, and the working of the mines of the country will follow as a matter of course.

Copper appears to be abundant in some districts of the interior; for I frequently saw whole caravans, every individual of which wore ornaments, rings, buttons, &c., nay, even weapons entirely made of this metal. Those countries, especially, which are situated on the second and third terraces to the east of Benguela, seem to be very rich in copper. The attention of the Portuguese government having been directed to this fact by a former Governor, a company of miners and assistants were sent to Benguela a few years since, with instructions to make more accurate investigations into the matter; but the result was unfavourable beyond all expectation.

I was informed, in many different quarters in Benguela, that this commission of inquiry had various reasons for making so unfavourable a report, chiefly induced by English influence; but the universal animosity of the Portuguese on this coast, to England, leads me to question the truth of such an accusation against that country. It is indisputable, that a great deal of copper is obtained by the negroes not far from Benguela; and it appears also to be found on the whole plateau, at least as far as San Salvador, the capital of Congo.

I once received a large piece of malachite from Congo; it was brought down to the coast by a negro, who flattered himself that he possessed a piece of gold ore, and, consequently, a great treasure I soon undeceived him, and for a few cigars he willingly gave up his prize, which he had carried on his head between three and four hundred miles.

During the administration of the Count of Porto Santo, a sulphur mine was worked successfully, near Benguela, and the river Dande: and a good deal of sulphur was evenexported to Brazil; now, however, only a few remains of that establishment, indicate its former existence.

Asphalt is found in considerable quantities in a mountain, in the vicinity of Loanda, near the mouth of the river Coanza. It is employed in Benguela, as a substitute for tar; but, notwithstanding the abundance of the source, it has not hitherto been used as an article of trade.

The declivities of the mountains near Loanda, are traversed by large strata of gypsum; yet neither has this important article been turned to any account, for the natives are satisfied with burning lime of the sea-shell (*arca senilis,*) which they may require, for their several buildings.

Rock salt is often found in such abundance, that it constitutes the wealth of whole districts, and forms an extensive article of trade, throughout the greater part of southern Africa. Dealers in salt, stand about in every part of the markets of Loanda and Benguela, and offer it for sale in baskets, mostly in small square pieces. Among some tribes, these squares of salt, are, as I have before observed, current as money. Salt might be easily obtained on the sea coast, but the facility with which rock-salt may be procured, seems to render it superfluous, though, wherever the coast, is very flat, the whole shore is covered with fine crystals of salt, which would require scarcely any preparation to fit it for use.

The time, we trust, will soon arrive, when it will be clearly manifest, that, the mineral kingdom of Angola, yields even a greater variety of productions than those

which I have here enumerated, and this will result, as soon as more honourable views shall have induced the European merchants to turn their attention to these objects; but as I could not obtain more personal information, and my acquaintance with precious stones, &c. is very imperfect, I must refrain from entering more fully into the subject.

If the vegetable and mineral kingdoms, notwithstanding their great variety and abundance, are comparatively but little known, and, still less, turned to advantage, the same is unhappily true of the productions of the animal kingdom. It almost seems as if the comparatively small district of Angola concentrated with in itself, inhabitants from the entire continent of Africa, notwithstanding its immense extension in every direction, its various climates, its deserts and forests, its swamps and mountains. Most of the animals of northern Africa,

as well as those of the most southern extremity, live and thrive here.

Notwithstanding the hilly character of the Trigebirge, which runs from the river Zaire almost as far as the Cape, they are the native home of the ostrich, the swift-footed antelopes, and even the giraffe, to which, nature appears to have assigned vast plains. The camel, alone, that wanderer of the desert, cannot habituate itself to the rich soil of Angola, hardened by the sun. The animal soon becomes diseased in its feet, grows sluggish, and quite unfit for encountering fatiguing marches.

The most diverse climates are found in districts not far from each other, and only a few days' journey intervene between the suffocating heat of the coast, and the genial temperature of the second and third terraces, which is agreeable, even to the European residents. San Salvador, for

instance, is called by them, the Montpelier of Africa. Caravans, coming to Loanda from the interior in a north-easterly direction, complain very much of the sensible cold of the third terrace, and yet they had never seen mountains covered with eternal snow.

It is a remarkable and unaccountable fact, that the more healthy parts of the interior, such as San Salvador, have been gradually abandoned by the Portuguese, who have invariably settled in the more unhealthy regions of the coast. Unless the greater facility thereby afforded for carrying on the slave-trade may be considered as the only cause, the fact is quite inexplicable. Even the see of the bishop, appears to have been removed from San Salvador to Loanga, with an ulterior view to this interest.

Large districts of capital meadow-land are spread over this extensive and universally

fertile country; but there are scarcely any herds of cattle, except numerous wild buffaloes, and in the mountains abound wild goats, the musk ox, many kinds of game, sheep, &c. Incalculable advantages might be derived from these districts, and yet, so utterly blind are the inhabitants to their own interests, that they procure butter, cheese, smoked and salt-meat, at enormous prices, from the Brazils, and even from Europe. Swine are bred every where, but only to meet the demand for home consumption; though they are of a breed which is highly esteemed along the whole of the African coast. Fine fat sucking-pigs run about among the children, in every negro-yard; but, as scarcely any of the people rear more than they require for their own domestic use, they cannot be purchased, except at a high price.

Mr. dos Santos was desirous of making commercial speculation in horned cattle

and swine, as he had already successfully attempted in many of the Cape Verde islands: with this view, he purchased a house at Loanda, where he established the two butchers belonging to our expedition. But when we bear in mind the well-grounded assertion of Dr. Kessler, the royal physician at Lisbon, that the Portuguese never suffer a stranger to prosper; but, that more than any other nation in the world, they annoy him by their jealousy, ill-will, ingratitude, chicanery and intrigue, we need not be surprised if, among the Portuguese of the coast, whose character is a compound of these qualities, this attempt was obliged to be abandoned, even during our stay.

The privilege of slaughtering,* both in

* The negroes in Angola and Benguela slaughter the animals in the following manner. The poor victim is bound with a short rope to a tree, the tendons of the hind legs are cut, and in this state it

Loanda and Benguela, was in the hands of a Portuguese, who carried on his business by negro slaves, and who was of course very unwilling to see a stranger interfere with his trade.

It is only from a few animals living in the desert, that the Europeans and negroes derive any advantage; the chief of these is the elephant, and many a Portuguese merchant has numerous warehouses stored with its valuable teeth; some of these teeth weigh from ninety to one hundred pounds, and must be carried by a couple of negroes: indeed, the teeth sometimes weigh as much as one hundred and fifteen pounds. The vast herds of elephants, which frequently appear in the vicinity of the towns, would insure great profit to

is left till the following day, when it is slowly tortured to death with spears and lances. The European mode of slaughtering seems not to invite imitation among these heartless Portuguese.

the hunter; but regular elephant hunts are very rare, even in the interior, and the Europeans are content with the ivory which the negroes have for the most part collected in the forests, and bring to their very doors.

The two-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinocerus Africanus*, Cuv.) is common in the thickets on the rivers—Zaire, Dande, Coanza, and Novo Redondo. The largest of the horns which is about five feet in length, and from which sticks and cups are turned in Loanda, is often worth from forty to fifty Spanish dollars. Here, as in the East Indies, there is a prevalent superstition, that if a poisoned beverage be poured into such a cup, it is instantly betrayed by the darkening of the brighter parts of the horn; for this reason, a negro chief never likes to travel without one of these cups. Even Europeans are not uninfluenced by this belief, and carry about with them a

stick or riding-whip made of this horn, which they dip into the cup, by way of detection, before they drink its contents.

The rivers which I have just mentioned likewise abound in hippopotami, whose teeth are more esteemed than ivory, and form an article of daily commerce.

Wax is the next principal production of the country, and every caravan which visits the European ports is laden with it as a staple article of trade, and it is so extremely cheap there, that none but wax lights are burnt even in the poorest houses. It is much to be regretted, that in collecting the wax and honey, no precautions are taken with respect to the bees; the negro, who traverses the forest in search of these productions, seeks only for hollow trees in which the bees build, and then recklessly destroys them for the sake of the present gain.

The oblong squares of wax which the

negroes bring on their heads for sale, are frequently adulterated by them with heavier ingredients, and the European, who himself is too frequently devising means of cheating them, is obliged to be on his guard against this deception, by thrusting a heated iron rod into the wax. I am persuaded that, if under the superintendance of the police, which would, doubtless, be attended with some difficulties, a stop were put to the barbarous manner of collecting the honey and wax, these valuable productions would be easily rendered far more profitable than they are at present.

Cochineal is plentiful in Prince's island, but has hitherto constituted an inconsiderable article of trade; however, attempts have latterly been made to extend the plantation, which are said to have succeeded very well.

The sea and all the rivers swarm with

fish, which have not been made to form a branch of commerce to other countries; the only exception is a trifling and unfrequent exportation of isinglass. At the most, we may mention the small quantity of dried fish, which the negroes from the interior obtain by barter on the coast; this inconsiderable trade is, however, not carried on by the Europeans, but only by the poor negroes on the coast.

Before I finally take leave of Angola, I cannot refrain from expressing my opinion of the character and intellectual capacity of the Congo negroes in general, although it may appear to be at variance with the opinion generally received. The innumerable stories which are current, both among partial observers, and in books of travel, had excited in me an unfavourable prejudice against the negroes, and the few skulls of the genuine negro race (of North Guinea) which had

come under my own observation, had tended to confirm it; yet a short residence among them, and a careful, impartial observation of these people, sufficed to convince me, that the supposed imperfect human being was a complete man, whose melancholy situation and oppressed condition alone have so sadly degraded him. What can we, what ought we to expect of the negro, when we consider, that for many centuries he has been galled by the most fearful slavery, with all its attendant horrors and cruelties, which have not merely hindered every improvement, but have actually caused him to retrograde in the path of intellectual culture? It stands to reason, that the loss of liberty, that slavery, must, of necessity, sink the half-civilized negro to a condition but little superior to that of the brute that perishes:

> "Death the frail body only kills,
> But thraldom brutifies the mind."

And this degradation, the white man, the man of the Caucasian race, himself undergoes, when he has unhappily been made a slave. If we look among the North African Moors, what is the state of the European slaves? They bear a worse character, and are inferior in value to the negroes themselves, on account o their untrustiness and treachery! Europe itself can produce examples enough of a similar kind, which but too clearly prove that if slavery be not an insuperable barrier, it nevertheless greatly impedes every noble feeling, every intellectual improvement, every moral and religious advance of a people. Nay, it is a well-known fact, that the very beasts degenerate in captivity, unless a judicious mode of treatment be directed to their improvement. Yet, the more exalted qualities of man are not altogether crushed, even in the breast of the negro slave; and, although—

"His look is dull, his soul is dark,
He feels not hope's electric spark;
But born the white man's servile thrall,
Knows that he cannot lower fall."

There are, nevertheless, a thousand most affecting instances, in which these despised bondsmen have given the most sincere proofs of magnanimity, friendship, fidelity, and love.

The very general belief that the intellectual capacity of the negro is naturally immensely inferior to that of the white man—a supposition that rests principally on the circumstance of a rather different conformation of his body, and that he is to be considered as an intermediate link between the brute creation and man, is, in my opinion, devoid of a scientific basis, and is the result of a commercial speculation. Incalculable misery has arisen from this false notion, and innumerable are the persons in whom it serves to stifle the

upbraidings of a troubled conscience, which will ever and anon raise its warning voice, and even in the most infatuated, demand to be appeased. It cannot be for a moment doubted, that if the gains were equal, every slave-dealer would rather freight his ship with sheep, or cows than with negroes; but since this is not the case, and the preponderance is so immense in favour of human merchandise, it is, perhaps, not to be wondered at, that avaricious man should prefer the trade which most easily gratifies his cupidity. I can conceive it possible that the European who knows the African only in America, in a degraded and abject state, after he has been violently torn from his home, and robbed of his liberty, may feel more contempt than pity for the unhappy wretch, and may thus be unable to regard him with unbiassed judgment. But here the injustice is too evident; we can only

form a correct judgment of the negro, when we see him under his own native skies, living in peace and freedom in his little hut, surrounded by his wife and children, and domestic enjoyments, where all his interests centre, where he reaps the fruit of his labour, and where he must contend for all that is dear to him.

I am firmly convinced, that the negro of Congo is capable of the same intellectual development of which the white man is so proud, when he compares himself with his less favoured brother, who needs only education to civilise him; the abolition of slavery, and a sound, moral, and religious education, will place him on a different footing from that which he now occupies. The now neglected soil would then bring forth abundantly all the necessaries of life, even to superfluity; and render all traffic in human flesh utterly unnecessary.

Agriculture and the slave-trade can never exist together, and the extirpation of the latter, is the indispensable condition for the improvement of the former. No kind of industry flourishes; not a trace of intellectual activity is found among the black inhabitants of the coast; for here almost every negro, without exception, derives his livelihood, directly or indirectly, from the slave-trade: in the interior, on the contrary, where the making of slaves instead of being the exclusive business, is quite an exception, and a matter of state, and is carried on by isolated individuals. Arts and manufacture flourish in proportion, so that the productions of the industrious inhabitants of Matamba, and the ingenious works of Cassange are celebrated far and near. I allude particularly to the cultivation of various kinds of corn, and to the manufacture of woven articles of clothing, mats, and baskets.

There are innumerable proofs that the negroes are neither incapable of intellectual development, nor have they any actual dislike to it, in proof of which many instances are recorded in the interesting treatise on the "Slave-trade and its Remedy," by the late excellent Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton whose loss all the friends of humanity and of Africa have so much reason to deplore. If further testimony were wanting to confirm this favourable opinion of the negroes, I would merely refer to the free republic of Liberia, the affairs of which are almost entirely managed by negro officers, under the surveillance of a white Governor. The "Herald of Liberia," which appears periodically, is edited by the son of a Virginian slave, and, as Buxton says, contains many well written articles by negro authors.

The inhabitants of this little free state are a multifarious compound of all the

Afric-negro tribes, and there is no place which would afford a better opportunity to study the intellectual capacities of the manifestly different negro races, than Liberia. I think there can be no doubt that the negroes who live to the south of the equator, *i. e.* the Congo race with all its varieties, justify us in forming far higher expectations of their intellectual capabilities than the widely diffused negro races who inhabit the northern parts of Africa; and, that a comparison might be more easily made in Liberia than among the Congo negroes themselves. This observation, however, refers only to the inhabitants of the West African coast, because here only I had an opportunity of making any investigations into this subject; and it strikes me that the case is different on the eastern coast, and that such evident external characteristics of the different tribes, cannot be precisely specified as circumscribed

within the limits of certain geographical boundaries.

The description which Lichtenstein gives of the Caffers, is very applicable to the Congo negroes, and it is not improbable that both spring from the same race, since, so far as they are known to us, the natives of the east coast, as high as Nubia, bear the strongest resemblance to the Congo negroes in the external conformation of the body, and the form of the head.

It is remarkable, that in the equatorial regions, on the west coast, this difference is most clearly discernible among the tribes which dwell near each other; and that a limit may easily be drawn between the negro of the North Guinea race and an inhabitant of Lower Guinea. I hope to prove this clearly in a description of the skull of a Congo negro that I brought with me, which will shortly be published, and to which I beg to refer my reader.

The negroes on the coast of Angola have a remarkable talent fot acquiring languages, although their own idiom differs so essentially from any with which we are acquainted, that an European can but seldom overcome the difficulties which it presents, and in some degree master it. I very frequently met with negroes who had been only four weeks on the coast, and who within that incredibly short time could not only understand Portuguese, but could make themselves perfectly intelligible in it. One of the most extensive slave-dealers in Loanda was formely a slave, and after she had obtained her freedom, she studied the Portuguese language by herself, with such diligence, that she not only speaks it very fluently, but even carries on her mercantile correspondence, with her own hand, in that language. In the kingdom of Ambriz all the negroes who have intercourse with Europeans speak English, to which many

add Portuguese, and some even a tolerable knowledge of French.

The most satisfactory means of forming a correct judgment of the standard of mental culture, attained by the Congo negroes, would, doubtless, be the study of their language, the Lingua Bunda As I am quite unacquainted with this language, I must refrain from giving any opinion, but will communicate some information imparted to me by Dr. Tycho Mommson, that he derived from a grammar and lexicon, by Cannecattim, which I have brought with me.

Although, with few exceptions, the negro languages belong to a branch of philosophy hitherto almost entirely unexplored, it may, nevertheless, be positively affirmed of the Lingua Bunda, that it is neither wholly destitute of flexion, nor has it been reduced to a thoroughly organised system, and therefore properly

belongs to the second class established by Wilholm Von Humboldt. We here find what that profound inquirer sets down as a principal characteristic of an agglutinate language, namely, that instead of changes of the terminations, prefixes prevail, which never blend so completely as suffixes, with the radical word; thus, for instance, the plural is formed by prefixing the syllable *ji*,* or by changing the nominal prefixes, MU, QUI, RI,† respectively into *mi* and *a*, *i*, *ma*, of which the transition from *mu* into *mi*, might be considered, at the most, as a symbolic change of form. There is no grammatical distinction of genders, and the gender is expressed by the addi-

* The pronunciation here given is the Portuguese.

† I consider these nomina to be nomina unitatis; the same prefixes serve to form the participles and verbal substantives.

tion of certain words. The cases are formed by prefixed particles.

With respect to the verbs, the differences of the three conjugations proposed by Cannecattim, seem to depend on euphonic laws; but the medio-passive is clearly distinguished from the active, by peculiar prefixes; the preterite is formed by certain prefixes and suffixes; the future by the addition of *yza*, which signifies come, and which otherwise serves for derivation; for instance, to form a foreign adjective, as from *pilimelu*, in Portuguese, *primeiro*, *yza-pilimelu*, to anticipate. I conjecture, too, that I see in *le*, the suffix of the preterite, the root *cala*, to be. The differences of person are indicated by prefixes, which, with the exception of the prefixes of the first and second persons singular, (the root of which I do not know), are abridged forms of the personal pronoun. It is remarkable, that

with the exception of some adjectives, all the words terminate with a vowel. Cannecattim gives the guttural *h* and *g* as consonants, which the Portuguese had not. With respect to *p*, it may be doubted whether it was originally in the negro idiom, because almost all the words in which it is found, may be referred to the Portuguese. Generally speaking, the Lingua Bunda is by no means pure, but mixed with Portuguese words, which have been variously disfigured by the negroes, to accommodate them to their own pronunciation. Among others we may remark, *navio*, ship; *bici*, fish; *panu*, sail; *ezolu*, fish-hook, (Portuguese anzol); but we refrain from drawing any inferences.

CHAPTER IX.

The Independent Negro State of Ambriz—Visit from one of the Boats belonging to the Waterwitch—Description of these Boats—Conduct of their Crews—The Mosquitos—The Slave-trade—The Waterwitch and a Slave-ship—A German Settler—Visits and Excursions—Dangers from Wild Beasts—Gigantic Snakes—Alligators—Start for Quibanza the Capital—Difficultie of the Road—Tipoia bearers—Humming-Birds—Rich Vegetation—Good Cultivation—Quibanza—The King Don André—His Dress—Friendly Reception—Political and Moral Condition of Ambriz—Conversation with the King—His Daughter—Visit from the Princess—Villages composing the Kingdom of Ambriz—Bravery of the People—The King elective though despotic—Singular Prejudice—Departure from Ambriz.

As we had scarcely any wind to swell our sails, we were twenty-four hours in performing the short voyage from Loanda

to Ambriz, and the evening was already setting in when we approached the land.

Shortly before casting anchor, we descried a boat with brown sails, in the distance, steering its course directly towards us, and soon saw, with the naked eye, that she carried the English flag. It was one of the large war-boats, which had been despatched by the Waterwitch, and which was to rejoin that vessel off Loanda, after a four weeks' cruise. The crew consisted of fourteen men, who must brave all the dangers of the climate for a whole month, without a deck, and with scarcely any protection against the rain and the cold nights. They had an officer and a physician on board, and only four of the sailors were blacks, though, very frequently, half of the crew consists of negroes.

They came proudly on board for the purpose of searching us, conscious, that

although their boat was so small, they had the advantage of us in point of strength. A large gun is always fixed to the foremost seat, and from the facility with which the vessel can be steered, and its small elevation above the surface of the water, this single gun can master even the well-armed slavers.

These boats are yet more dreaded along the coast than the principal ship itself, not only because of the greater risk which the slave-merchant runs in encountering them, but because they frequently surprise the scattered inhabitants of the coast, and carry off any provision which they may require, either by fair means, or, if that will not avail, by force. In some cases they even go beyond this; shortly before our visit, for instance, they set on fire several negro huts, some of the slaves which were lodged in them made their escape, but the ivory that was there, fell

into the hands of the assailants. Gin being the soonest exhausted of all the ships' stores, is perhaps the most frequent inducement to such surprisals, and they find an excursion of this kind the most convenient mode of supplying themselves afresh.

Some days before our arrival, several men belonging to this very boat, came to our store at Ambriz to obtain a stock of gin; but as our agent and his slaves were the strongest party, they gave them a good threshing instead, and so got rid of them.

As evening was already closing in, we should not have been able to land that night, on account of the detached cliffs in he bay, had not the officers given us an experienced steersman. A small projection of the steep bank forms a safe landing-place, and several large boats always lie at anchor here, for the conveyance of

slaves and goods to the neighbouring town, especially to Loanda, with which there is almost daily intercourse.

As soon as we had landed, our English pilot, notwithstanding the darkness of the night, conducted us rapidly along the steep, rocky coast, and accompanied us to our store, where, after a short apology for his late misconduct, he requested Mr. Oliveira, the agent of our house, to accommodate him till the morning.

Our host received us in the most obliging manner; for he was, probably, not sorry to have the monotony of his life broken by visitors from Europe. We found him and a Spanish sailor seated at a ricketty table with a glass of grog before him, in the midst of numerous black attendants, who lay scattered about on the ground, either asleep or wholly unoccupied, while a dimly burning lamp, suspended in the middle of the house, cast a

feeble light on this inanimate assembly. Two other Europeans, who were in the house were, roused from their first sleep, though it was hardly eight o'clock, by our arrival which had not been expected that day, and which, on the whole, caused very little change. Some persons were ordered to prepare sleeping-places for us, and to hang pieces of calico around them, as a protection against the mosquitos.

We took some Lisbon wine, and a few bananas, and then retired to rest, fully resolved to rise early in the morning in order to have a long day. The prickling heat, which is so troublesome to Europeans on their first arrival, had spread over my whole body, and so tormented me that, for the last week I had seldom enjoyed a few hours, undisturbed rest, and ardently wished for a good long nap. While tossing on my sleepless couch in the confined cabin on board, oppressed

with the sultry heat, and tormented with the intolerable irritation of the skin, I rejoiced in the anticipation of passing a few quiet nights at Ambriz, where I fondly hoped that a cooler bed and a fresh atmosphere would indemnify me for these hours of weariness; but I was bitterly disappointed.

I had scarcely lain down, when a fearful noise resounded through the house; I instantly started from my bed and ran out to ascertain the meaning: I found that four negroes patroled the house during the livelong night—calling aloud and making a noise with sticks, or beating a drum to scare the wild beasts; and however vexatious and annoying this might be, it was nevertheless necessary, for it is nothing uncommon for a lion or an ounce to leap over the reed-fence which encloses the court-yard. And not only in our house was this nuisance going on; similar sounds

were heard from all the surrounding dwellings. All this was quite new to me, and I returned to my bed in despair. I had scarcely done so, and endeavoured to compose myself to rest, when swarms of mosquitos penetrated between the openings of my miserable bed-hangings, and, with their interminable buzz and cruel stings, prevented my getting any sleep; I knew not what to do: I might indeed have buried myself under the quilt, but this was impossible, for the heat was so oppressive. I was driven to despair, and soon thoroughly convinced that I must again abandon all hopes of repose.

Some young slaves lay on the ground by the side of my bed. They were not only quite naked, but had not any covering to protect them against these little tormentors, and I could not help envying them as they lay there sleeping so soundly;

often, indeed, striking their hands upon the places where they were stung, but never awaking, or disturbing each other by their continual slapping.

In the middle of the night my two travelling companions, who, like myself despaired of getting any rest, came to my bed-side and invited me to walk with them in the court-yard, till the cool morning air should disperse the mosquitos, and give us some chance of repose. I readily followed their advice, and after accompanying the watchmen for sometime about the house, I again attempted to go to sleep, but it was not till towards morning that we were refreshed by some hours quiet slumber.

As I was very desirous of exploring the country I rose at seven o'clock, and to my astonishment, found every body already busily employed: groups of negroes were lying about in different parts of the stores,

offering various articles for sale, and caravans were constantly arriving from the remote interior, and from the neighbouring villages, bringing merchandize. I never saw so much gum, especially copal, brought to market as here. In front of the numerous Baracoons lay heaps of the refuse of this gum, which the Europeans always pass through a very coarse sieve before they purchase it; in consequence of which the poor negro trader frequently loses the half of his commodity; although what is termed the refuse is not only very fit for use, but is usually sifted a second time by the overreaching Europeans.

Elephants' and hippopotamus' teeth are brought in abundance to market; but during the two days that I passed at Amdriz, I did not see any wax; perhaps the traders here do not trouble themselves about such trifles, because the traffic in slaves is the all-absorbing interest. A few

weeks before our arrival, a slave-ship left this port with five hundred negroes on board, but it had proceeded only a few miles, when it was chased by the Waterwitch. Unhappily the Englishman missed his prey, for the inhuman captain instantly veered, and wrecked his ship on the cliffs of Ambriz. Not one of the unhappy slaves was saved, at least, not one of them returned to the possession of the owner, and the crew of the slaver, after bravely defending themselves against the boat, which was sent in pursuit of them by the Waterwitch escaped safe to land: two English sailors are said to have been shot in the encounter. The captain succeeded in concealing himself on board the Camoes, one of our ships, which happened to be close by, and which a few days after, carried him as passenger to Loanda. The English made diligent search for him, and even came on board the Camoes; but our

obliging captain had so carefully concealed this wretch, that he completely eluded their vigilence. It was well for both those men that Mr. dos Santos was not acquainted with the affair till long afterwards, for had he known it, the delinquint would infallibly have been given up, and our captain would have suffered a severe penalty. I afterwards saw this slave captain frequently in Loanda, at the house of Donna Anna Obertally, who was reported to have been the owner of the ship and cargo. She immediately gave the captain the little schooner *Esperanca*, which she had purchased of Mr. dos Santos, and dispatched him with goods to Mossamedes, where she intended to found a branch establishment.

The actual name of this place is, A Ponta do Ambriz; because it lies at the mouth of the river Ambriz, but it is usually called Ambriz, though that is the

proper name of the kingdom. It is situated on the left bank of the river, and stands on an eminence which is about one hundred feet, high and is covered with a kind of grass, which however is not fit for forage. There are no establishments of any kind, and there is an air of deadness about the place; cattle is no where seen grazing, and the beautiful goats, which I so greatly admired at every other place along this coast are totally wanting here. A few swine and some poultry constitutes nearly the whole of the live stock, and are therefore very dear. The negroes from the neighbouring villages supply the inhabitants not only with fowls, eggs, and a species of pigeon, but are also obliged to bring food for these animals, because the Europeans have not taken the trouble of sowing even a grain of maize. Their kraals are inconceivably bare, and not an individual could point to a shrub, or an

herb which he had planted with his own hand. There is indeed an abundance of vegetables in the market at noon; but they are invariably brought for sale by the negroes from the vicinity, and now and then, as an exception, from Loanda.

There are only seven stores at Ambriz, viz., three Portuguese, three American, and one Brazilian; not a single negro-hut is to be seen beyond the precincts of these seven kraals, yet, in proportion, the population is considerable, averaging from one hundred and fifty, to two hundred persons; very few of them are slaves, the greater part being free native negroes, who serve here for some time.

I was told that I should here first see the slave-trade in its true light, and my astonishment was great, that I did not see anything of it; not a file of chained slavery, even the water from the neighbouring river was brought in part by free negroes.

The matter however was soon explained: great numbers had been very recently exported, and, hence, I did not see a single negro in chains. No European government has any power whatever here, and, consequently, there is not the slightest restraint with respect to this infamous traffic; but every one carries on his dealings in slaves, without any attempt at concealment. The poor wretches are kept in the kraal of the owner, till the time of embarkation, and are put on board either by day or by night, whichever may be most convenient.

It must not, however, be inferred that the slave-trade is carried on by every one of the barracoons, for I can positively assert that some of them do not defile themselves with it; but confine their trade to barter, and I have had ample opportunities of ascertaining that this trade alone yields considerable profit.

Among these exceptions was the house of Mr. dos Santos, which had been established here only a few months; but Mr. Oliveira assured me that the barter for ivory, alone, afforded ample returns, the same assurance was given me by several other persons.

In visiting the various stores, I was greatly astonished to meet a German of the name of Schultz, in one of the American houses. He was a native of Stettin, and had been brought to this country by the commercial affairs of his house. He had resided many years in North America, and Africa, and had almost forgotten his mother-tongue, but he joyfully embraced the opportunity of conversing with me in our native language.

Although there are natives from so many differrent countries in Loanda, Benguela, Novo Redondo, and Ambriz, Mr. Schultz and two others, who live in

Loanda, are the only German residents on this vast extent of coast. Our mutual pleasure was of course very great, and I shall ever bear the many proofs of his kindness in grateful rememberance. As a merchant, he was an honourable exception from those who made their wealth by dealing in slaves, and the way in which he treated his negroes might have served as a model to his barbarous neighbours, and sufficiently proved the fallaciousness of the opinion entertained by the Portuguese, that the negroes can be managed only by means of rigorous severity. A young negro, who had been but two months in his house, had during that time acquired a tolerable knowledge of English, and had so fully gained the confidence of his master, that he employed him in the barter trade.

I soon completed my round of visits to the other stores, and though mercantile

jealousy has given rise to an unfriendly feeling among the Europeans, I met with a hopitable reception from every one, and would willingly have protracted my stay to acquire some knowledge of the natural productions of the country.

I took a short ramble along the banks of the river, but they, as well as the surface of the river, were covered with so luxuriant a vegetation, that a feeling of insecurity and apprehension came over me, more particularly of alligators, so that I did not venture to take a single step without the utmost precaution. The river is said to swarm with alligators, which appear in great numbers, especially towards the evening; and the most gigantic snakes are also said to be found here. Hence, every noise among the reeds and thickets made me start, and I soon returned home. While I was staying at the house of the physician at Loanda, I saw the skin of a

snake, which was caught here, and which was thirty feet in length, although it had been dried.

I also wandered about on the shore and in the mountains, and did not find much that was interesting; I saw innumerable crabs running along the bank like so many spiders, and broken shells lying about in abundance, but they were all of the same spicies that I had met with in Loanda.

The entire fruits of this excursion were a few insects. I was very anxious to bring home some of the many light-footed lizards, but it was quite in vain to persue them among the bushes and the high grass, which facilitated their escape.

After a hasty repast, our host and his three European visitors set out in tipoias for Quibanza, the capital of Ambriz, in order to visit the King, who resides there. Mr. Oliveira had sent a messenger some

hours before to announce our coming; and as we felt sure that his majesty would expect us at three o'clock, we had no need to wait for an answer. Unfortunately, we met with delays, and our little caravan did not set out till very near that time; and consequently, we did not arrive at our destination till about five.

Quibanza is about three leagues distant from Ponto do Ambriz, across the first terrace, which is certainly two hundred feet in height. Our whole route lay through high grass and thorny bushes; and in many places it was necessary to wade through deep waters. We could not, therefore, sufficiently admire the vigour and perseverance of our bearers, who proceeded, without interruption, at a short, regular trot, without allowing themselves a moment's rest. As I was the heaviest of the party, I had two reserve bearers, who

relieved each other twice during the journey, but they were compelled to make the more speed to overtake the others who did not halt for us. Their only relief was occasionally to shift the pole from one shoulder to the other. To facilitate this change, each of them carried a forked stick, with which they lifted the pole over the head, one end of the stick resting on the ground.

The thorny bushes which frequently crossed the narrow paths, rendered the passage not less disagreeable to the bearers than to ourselves; but, though they were often so severely scratched, that the blood trickled down, they did not suffer themselves to be checked for a moment in their uninterrupted haste. While we did our utmost to defend ourselves, as well as we could, against the bushes that swung across our path, I greatly regretted that I had not leisure to observe the vegetation

which passed so rapidly before my view, and which I had never seen in such variety and splendour. We proceeded at such great speed, that the time scarcely sufficed for the whole to leave a general permanent impression.

The ground was in many places literally covered with flowers; the bushes were adorned with bloom or seed, and the large trees were laden with a variety of beautiful blossoms, or bore abundance of fruit. One of these was particularly striking to the eye of a stranger, for it was covered with fruit the size of a gourd, which the inhabitants convert into drinking vessels. I involuntarily called to mind the fable of the man, who, while sleeping under an oak tree, was awakened by an acorn falling on his nose, and congratulated himself on the wisdom of nature, in not suffering so lofty a tree to bear gourds, a notion which consoled him for the pain that he suffered;

nature, however, had not followed out his notion of wisdom in Africa.

Large flights of brilliant humming-birds being roused by the noise which we made in passing, issued from their retreats which they had sought during the heat of the day; and a singular effect was produced by the incredible numbers of the artificial nests of the weaver-bird, suspended from the ends of the tamarinds. Various trees were mantled to their very summits by parisites, and richly coloured butterflies fluttered amid these beautiful flowers. There was not a spot of bare earth to be seen, wherever the ground was not clad with more beautiful plants, it was covered with grasses rising to the height of a man. This paradise seemed an impress of the peace of nature, and imparted to me a pleasure I had never felt before, and I could scarcely overcome the desire of making a longer stay in this lovely spot.

My eye roved from one beauty to another, and revelled in silent delight on the exquisite charms which were spread before me with mute rapture. The stillness which pervades the whole, the breathless silence of all nature cannot be conceived, and has in it something supernatural, which fills the soul with awe. It was quite a relief to hear the clear notes of the turtle-dove; and the unharmonious twittering of other birds fell like music on my ear. The exquisite song of our northern nightingale would be an enjoyment too great to be borne amid scenes like these.

W. Von Meyer, in his tour through the Cape Colonies,* speaking of the vocal power of the Aborigines of this county, says, that "from man down to the frog, Nature has treated all like a stepmother; none have been endowed by her with a

* Travels in South-Africa during the year 1840-41, &c. &c., published at Hamburg, 1843.

modulated song; there are none that warble their native wood note wild.—Larks, it is true, inhabit these lovely solitudes, but here they have ceased to sing: even the frog does not croak here, but contents itself with uttering one note, not unlike the chirping of the cricket. The turtle-dove alone gladdens the heart with its sweet tones."

This remark is almost applicable to Lower Guinea; for while the voice of the turtle-dove is beautiful here, the frog has lost its croak; at least, I never heard it.

As we approached the town, small unfenced fields of manioc, maize, and beans became more and more frequent. The inhabitants of this little kingdom are very advantageously distinguished from those of the Portuguese possessions, by their industrious cultivation of these plots of ground. Even tobacco, which in other places is brought almost exclusively from

the interior to the coast, is here grown in extensive plantations. Under the care of even an indifferent European farmer, this country might be cultivated with incalculable advantage, and the Europeans would be able in a great measure, to ward off the dangerous influences of the atmosphere, by residing on the adjacent chain of mountains, where the climate is said to be very favourable to our northern constitutions.

We reached Quibanza at half-past four o'clock, and as we entered the enclosing fence, which consisted only of reeds, we were met by several negroes, who hastened to inform us, that we must not proceed to the interior of the town, except on foot. We accordingly alighted from our tipoias, and suffered ourselves to be conducted by a swarm of people to the further end of the town, where his majesty was awaiting our arrival.

The town of Quibanza consists of about

two hundred negro-huts, and lies in the cool shade of lofty adonzonias, whose vast tracks seem to speak of by-gone ages. They are planted with great regularity in three straight rows, and I venture to attest, that they must have stood here at least a thousand years. The little negro dwellings which precisely resembled each other, formed a line with the majestic adonzonias, which gave them a refreshing appearance. They are all made of reeds roofed in with palm-leaves; none was above seven feet in length, nor less than four feet in breadth, and they were all about six feet high; one end of the huts was closed by a wall of the same material, while their sole protection against wild beasts was the town wall which is also six feet high, but is very fragile, being formed of only thin reeds twined together, the other sides being wholly open; none of them were inclosed by a fence.

We found his majesty, Don André, under one of the largest adonzonias, seated in an old-fashioned European arm-chair, covered with leather. On his left hand was his whole staff sitting cross-legged; close to his majesty sat the *ministre das armas*, who, as the principal general, ranked next to him. Then came the *ministre da corte*, answering to our master of the ceremonies, and he was followed by several others whose rank and office I did not ascertain. There were not above eight or ten, and all bore the title of mafook (minister) and were the leaders of the troops. Although these grandees of the kingdom are the most experienced warriors, none of them wore his weapons on this occasion, nor did any of the other persons about the king appear in arms. On the right hand of Don André, the other nobles of the kingdom, who greatly outnumbered the mafooks, were ranged also cross-legged, in three rows,

one behind the other. The whole assembly sat in a semicircle, opposite to which four chairs were placed for us.

The king was dressed in his state attire, and all the surrounding attendants were quite naked, with the exception of the waist-cloth. He wore a scarlet silk cloak trimmed with ermine, which, to judge by its appearance, might have been displayed half a century ago in some European theatre. He wore a pair of gaily embroidered Russian boots, which we had brought from Hamburgh, and which, together with a little carpet, were presented to him by Mr. Oliveira. Like his attendants, he wore a small blue cotton cloth round his waist. His legs, from the boots upwards, were quite naked; and it was truly ridiculous to see the king endeavouring to hide them by constantly pulling his cloak over them, but it was so scanty, and he succeeded, at best, only for a few minutes.

He held in his hand a reed cane, which was at least six feet in length, and was studded half way up with bright brass-headed nails! But the most ludicrous part of his whole equipment was his ma-fook cap, which none but the king and his ministers are privileged to wear. It was made of bast, or fibres of cactus, and tastefully plaited in the shape of a Greek cap, but which lay so insecurely on the crown of his head, that it threatened to fall off at the slightest movement. The ministers, however, have the advantage of their royal master, inasmuch as, by way of distinction, they are obliged to wear the cap firmly fixed on the head.

A part of the usual dress of the king is a bast cape, wrought with much skill and elegance, in the shape of a lady's man-tilla; it is ornamented with a large tassal in front and behind, and hangs very know-ingly over the shoulders. The present

being an audience of state, when the king was attired in his best, the dirty red silk cloak was substituted for the cape.

On our entering the circle, the king was not a little embarrassed as to the manner in which he ought to receive us; more than once he seemed disposed to rise, but after some hesitation, he remained sitting, and held out his hand in a very friendly manner, and motioned to us to sit down on the chairs that stood opposite to him. We had taken the pre caution to bring a native, in the service of Mr. Oliveira, well acquainted with the Portuguese language, who knelt down at our right hand, and acted as interpreter.

The king then clapped his hands as a signal that he alone was now to speak; and he opened the conversation by inquiring rather gravely, why we had kept him waiting so long? but on our apology,

that our landing had been delayed by the violence of the breakers, he smiled, and expressed himself perfectly satisfied. Both the king and our interpreter began and concluded every sentence, however brief, by clapping their hands, and none of the persons present ever presumed to interrupt the speaker.

We thanked his majesty for granting us the honour of an audience, and for his courteous reception. Mr. Oliveira promised strictly to observe the laws of the country, on condition that he should enjoy the protection of the sovereign. The king, with much urbanity, begged that we would not thank him, as it afforded him much pleasure to see us. He assured us of his protection so long as we should remain in his dominions, and kindly added, that we should be joyfully and hospitably received whenever we might return to his country.

Sometime previous *to* our arrival, Mr.

Oliveira had caused one of his people, a native of Ambriz, to be chastised for some delinquency; but, as it is strictly prohibited in Ambriz to inflict any punishment which draws blood,—though corporal punishment is not otherwise contrary to the laws,—Mr. Oliveira was fined an anchor of brandy, accompanied by an admonition, that a repetition of this offence would double the penalty, and in the sequel, would be punished by banishment from the country. The king took the opportunity of bringing this offence forward, and exacted the promise that nothing should in future be done contrary to his known will.

We thought that this was the proper moment for offering the presents which we had brought with us, and which were packed in a large basket. On the appearance of the gift, every countenance brightened up, and the cheerful murmur of the ministers made us conjecture that

they would come in for their share. The king expressed his thanks, and observing that he could not have expected to receive so valuable a gift, reiterated the promise of his royal protection, and then gave a signal for the removal of the presents. We were now asked whether we would partake of any refreshment; and, on our asking for some water, it was immediately presented to us in calabashes, acidulated with lemon juice.

The whole court seemed animated by a very cheerful humour, after the receipt of our presents, and even the *ministre das armas*, who had often visited our house on the coast, smiled, and made a sign to Mr. Oliveira, but no one, except the king, ventured to speak. His majesty made many inquiries respecting the illness of Mr. dos Santos, and seemed sincerely to lament his death; to my great surprise, he made the sign of the cross with his

hand, though of course he was not a Roman Catholic, observing, that the case was a melancholy, but an ordinary one, and the same that awaited us all. This statement of his opinion was very gratifying to me, as it was a proof of the superior intellectual culture of the inhabitants of Ambriz, because most of the dwellers on the coast regard natural death as an impossibility, and always ascribe it to the fetish of some enemy; and this superstition, as I have before observed, gives rise to innumerable cruelties, and leads to the sacrifice of many victims, especially among the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of Benguela.

The people of Ambriz are indeed likewise fetish worshippers, but they appear to be less deeply imbued with superstitious belief than their neighbours, and yet no missionary has ever been among them, nor did any one recollect having

ever seen one. I am of opinion, that the political and moral condition of these people is so superior to that of the other Portuguese possessions,—or from which Portugal receives tribute,—chiefly because the Roman Catholic clergy of that nation have never been able to obtain a footing among them, in the character of missionaries. If we turn to the records of history, we are horror-struck with the fearful wars, occasioned directly or indirectly by the missionaries, who were sent by King don Juan II., in 1491, as the first messengers of the gospel of peace. Since that time, the kingdom of Congo has not only made no progress in civilization, but it has even broken off all connexion with Europe and European colonies on the coast. The churches that were then built, were pulled down, the priests murdered or expelled, and the supposed converts again returned to the worship of their fetishes. It is

only on the coast, that Portugal still possesses some few small trading places. The so called baptised Christians, living in and about Loanda, are far, very far, inferior to the people of Ambriz. In general, they have gained nothing by Christianity, except the name of "Catholic," of which most of them are very proud; while, at the same time, they continue to worship their fetishes, as I have had frequent opportunities of witnessing in Benguela and Loanda.

The yoke of slavery, the mark of which is indelibly stamped on every negro, whether bond or free of the Portuguese colony, is so despicable and degrading in the eyes of the independent people of Ambriz, that they look down with disdain on their oppressed neighbours, and resolutely defend their own frontiers against the temporal and spiritual authority of Loanda. It is unhappily true that Ambriz

in common with the surrounding countries, is in the practice of making slaves; yet, it is enough to see the priests in Loanda to come to the conclusion, that this little kingdom must be happier in all respects, from the simple fact, that the Roman Catholic Church has no footing in it.*

Don André expressed his surprise, that none of our ships would deal in slaves, as he thought that the mere barter for the produce of the country could never repay the expenses of so large an expedition. We invited him to honour our store and ships with a visit; but he declined, and added gravely, that as sovereign of the country he could not bear the sight of the sea, for that it would immediately occasion his death. He told us, that in his youth he had often gone with caravans of slaves to the coast, farther north, and he even recollected a few French phrases,

* See Appendix B.

which he playfully repeated for the amusement of his attendants, and then again said with much seriousness, that now he was king, he dared not behold the sea any more. I was unable to obtain any information respecting the origin of this remarkable law. He inquired with much curiosity after our distant country, and seemed to have a peculiar notion respecting its cold climate. 'If,' said he, 'your home is further north than London, or Newcastle,'—the names of which were known to him, 'I cannot conceive how people could live there.'

I had a great desire to see this king's palace, but my request was responded to with the observation, that every man who was caught within the walls which surrounded it, was immediately put to death. I was, therefore, perfectly content with looking at the surrounding fence, which consists of lofty cactus and accacia, and

was so thick, that the eye could nowhere penetrate. I likewise met with a refusal, on wishing to be introduced to one of his wives, above an hundred of whom live in little huts, in his court-yard, and form his body-guard;—but he consented to allow me to see one of his daughters: upon a signal given by the king, one of his elder daughters, the princess 'Etona,' was introduced into our circle. I was about to take her hand, but her embarrassment was so great that she knelt down; a murmur of disapprobation immediately ran through the circle of the courtiers, which recalled her self-possession, and mindful of her royal dignity, she rose, and offered each of us her hand.

She had no external distinction of any kind, and like all the other women, wore only a waist-cloth of blue cotton, and a braid of elephants hair round her neck. She was about fourteen years of age, very

pretty, and her manners extremely graceful. I invited her to accompany us to Barra do Ambriz, where I should be able to make her some presents, and after obtaining her father's permission, she consented to pay us a visit on the following day, attended by the two principal ministers. The only present that I had by me was a bead necklace, which I hung round her neck; she appeared much pleased, and her father gave me an approving smile. The Princess then knelt down on the right hand of the king, and joined the circle of the nobles.

As evening set in, we were admonished by the darkness to think of our return, and we accordingly set out, attended by a great number of torch bearers, provided by the kindness of the king. The dangers of travelling in the dark is so great, on account of the numerous wild beasts which infest those parts, that no one ven-

tures abroad without carrying a long piece of burning-wood in his hand. Our attendants kept up a continual loud shouting to scare away the beasts, and notwithstanding the profound gloom, we arrived at our residence without encountering an obstacle. A part of our escort returned to Quibanza the same evening, and the remainder took up their night's lodging in our court-yard.

We were all rather fatigued by our excursion, and after a refreshing meal, hastened to repose, but we were not much better off than the preceding night; the same interruptions disturbed our sleep, and we enjoyed but little rest.

The morning before our departure, I endeavoured to obtain some weapons from the trading negroes, in exchange for cotton goods and glass beads; and I had no difficulty in doing so, for most of the negroes were very ready to dispose of

them. I perceived several bows and arrows, and some iron javelins finished at the butt end with goats' hair; some clubs of heavy wood, several lances, about seven feet in length, a couple of daggers, and a sabre of very good workmanship from a negro of San Salvador.

I took great pains to ascertain whether they had any idols, but, with the exception of one in the possession of a subject of the king of Ambriz, none of them had any thing but some fetishes of the rudest workmanship, and which differed in no respect from those which are so commonly seen along the coast.

The idol of this Ambrizo was of copper, and represented a very well-made human figure of the Caucasian race. The owner made use of it as a bell, for it emitted a pretty loud sound at every step which he took. All my endeavours to obtain possession of it were in vain; I

made him considerable offers, but he assured me that if he lost this idol, every good fortune would depart from his family, and that he would rather lose his life than this protecting deity.

About eight o'clock in the morning, while we were still at breakfast, the Princess Etona, according to her father's promise, arrived at our store; she was attended by the two chief ministers, Don Domingo, the *ministre das armas*, and Don Joao, the *ministre da corte*, who followed close behind her. They were both armed with a lance, club, and large dagger, which, together with their tall, stately figures, were well calculated to inspire respect. I invited the princess to sit down on a chair which stood near me, but she preferred seating herself cross-legged upon the floor, the two ministers standing close behind her. She brought many compliments from her father, and was commissioned to renew

his assurance of protection as long as we were in his kingdom. I could not help expressing my surprise at her taking so considerable a quantity of wine, for she emptied every glass that was presented to her, and yet her manner and deportment remained perfectly unchanged. Her two attendants were regaled with rum and Hollands, in the place of wine.

At my request, Don Domingo gave me the names of all the villages comprising the kingdom of Ambriz, which are as follows; Quibanza, Quincolo, Loanda, Senigiamputo, Bongabonga, Quibinda, Quingo, Quiembo, Quimboaça, Quimguemba, Quimpambo, Quimjoge, Quimcaje, Quimcanga, Quicamba, Quinzondo and Phuconcongo. Notwithstanding the small extent of this kingdom and the rude and savage character of the tribes on the east frontier; the bravery of its inhabitants is, nevertheless, fully equal to maintain its

independence. The king, who is absolutely despotic, is, however, elected every five years from among the mafooks; and if his government has been advantageous to the country, he may be re-elected. The reigning sovereign, Don André, has been frequently re-elected, and to judge from his appearance, he must be above fifty years of age.

The few European residents enjoy great freedom under his government, and the trifling imports which they have to pay, are made in presents according to their own discretion, and which they generally deliver to the king when they wait upon him.

It is very singular, that notwithstanding the amicable relations subsisting between the government and the Europeans, there are some prejudicies in Ambriz, which the latter are absolutely unable to overcome. Among these, is the prohibition to keep

any animals which may be employed for carrying goods or men, and hence there are no beasts of burden, nor horses in Ambriz. The Europeans are extremely desirous of possessing horses, but their repeated requests and large offers have hitherto proved unavailing.

The princess and her attendants left us about ten o'clock; I presented her with several yards of calico and some glass beads, and with the simplicity of a child she gave me an empty calabash, and begged me to give her a little Hollands; I accordingly gave her a bottle, but kept the calabash as a souvenir, at which she seemed much pleased.

The last portions of ivory were now sent on board, and we were informed that the ship would weigh anchor in the course of the afternoon. I took leave of Mr. Schultz, and received from him an ichneumon, which he had tamed, and suffered to

run about the house, but it was unluckily forgotten on shore.

Previous to going on board, I made a final excursion in the immediate environs, but I obtained only a few insects. I did not meet with any of the tall euphorbia at Ambriz, which are so common about Loanda ; this I attribute to the nature of the soil, which is very rich, and not of a sufficiently sandy character.

Mr. Oliveira accompanied me on board, and gave me two of the many grey parrots which he suffers to go about at liberty with clipped wings. Ambriz, however, is not their native country, and they are rarely found here in a wild state, but they are no where more common than in Cabinda.

The anchor was weighed amidst the rejoicing and singing of the sailors, and with joyous notes all took leave of the coast, which they regarded as dangerous

and unhealthy. I was the only one who was sorry to bid adieu, perhaps for ever, to the shores of Africa; but none of our party had passed so many cheerful and instructive hours there as I had, and none certainly took so much interest in the country and its inhabitants.[1] Quite out of spirits, and dissatisfied with my scanty knowledge of this deeply-interesting tract of coast, which was almost unknown to me six months before, I saw the national colours of the several stores, which waved from the lofty flag-staff, planted before each house, slowly vanish from my view. The land shortly disappeared,

> "In calm magnificence the sun declined,
> And left a paradise of clouds behind."

But the monsoon blew strongly from the S.S.W., and on the following morning we saw only sky and sea.

CHAPTER X.

Variable Weather—Deficiency of Water—Proceed to Annabon for a supply—Appearance of the Island—Scarcely known in Europe—The Natives speak a little English and Potuguese—Visit from the Governor—Land for the purpose of exploring the Country—Numerous Native Boats—Beauty of the Island—Difficulty of penetrating into the Interior—A Chapel—Gain the Summit of the Mountains, and pass the Night there—Heavy Dew—Extreme Cold—Splendid Prospect—Kindly received by the wife of the Governor—Pay a Medical Visit—Friendly disposition of the Islanders—Exchange of Names—Abundance of Natural Productions—Annabon neglected by the Portuguese and Spaniards, because not adapted to Slave Stations—Purchased by the English in 1843—Not one European in the Island—Dress of the Inhabitants—Presents to the Natives, and Dealings with them—Excessive Timidity of the Women—

Sail suddenly during the Night—Tedious Voyage—Arrive at Fayal, Horta—A Hermitage—Agreeable Appearance of the Town—Cotinjo's Hotel—Hospitality—Leave Fayal—Pass the Channel, and arrive at Altona.

THE commencement of our return voyage to Europe was extremely slow, and was rendered still more tedious by the total absence of novel objects of interest. The only relief to this monotony, was innumerable flocks of our old friends—the flying fish, which fell so thickly on the decks during the night, that we had always a plentiful supply for breakfast; shoals of dolphins also sported around our vessel in stormy weather, and afforded us an occasional diversity. In the neighbourhood of the river Zaire, we saw large quantities of aquatic and other plants, which were driven by the stream far out into the ocean; and these little floating islands were frequently of the liveliest green.

The irregularity of the winds in these latitudes is a great hindrance to navigation; nay, it is often extremely dangerous, and the foresight of the captain is probably no where called more into requisition than here. Sometimes there is a dead calm, and the ocean for days together presents the appearance of a polished mirror; suddenly a heavy squall fearfully reverses the whole picture, and this is as abruptly succeeded by the perfect serenity of both sea and sky. Hence it is by no means uncommon for a ship to be dismasted here, and we ourselves were placed in a very awkward predicament by the instantaneous loss of many sails, and the rending of a great part of our tackling.

It was our original intention to run in at the Ilha do Principe, and there to lade our ship with fine woods; but we were compelled to relinquish this plan in consequence of all our money having been

seized at Loanda; and the captain accordingly determined to proceed to Santiago to take in a supply of water. But as we were constantly becalmed, the great number of passengers on board so speedily consumed our stock, that we became fearful that it would soon be exhausted. The passengers and crew were accordingly placed on an equal allowance, namely, a bottle of water for twenty-four hours; but the invalids were permitted to have more, if requisite. Whoever had indulged in too large a quantity at one meal, was compelled to do penance at the next, or else endeavour to assuage his thirst with some other beverage. We carefully collected the rain-water, but we could scarcely ever drink it, because it had a strong taste of tar and grease.

The captain at length resolved to make for the little island of Annabon, which lay within the distance of a few miles, and

there to take in a fresh supply of water; we accordingly made direct for it, and were so fortunate as to reach it on the 11th of March. Very early in the morning, we saw the summits of this high rocky island towering above the clouds. The island looked as if it were defended by a guard on the northern side, for here and there numerous cliffs issued from the water, and bade defiance to the mighty breakers. We had gained this point, and were just about to sail along the east coast, as far as the northern extremity, at some distance from shore, when the high west wind suddenly fell, and our ship lay almost motionless on the smooth surface of the ocean. The rocks were so high, that they proved but too good a protection against the wind, for miles together.

Notwithstading its apparently uniform and unbroken mountain ridge, the island presented the most beautiful aspect. In

most places the rocky coast descended abruptly into the sea, yet not a spot of barren land was visible from the foot to the highest mountain summit; all was clothed with the freshest verdure,

In sight of such beauties, who could resist the desire of visiting this lovely, smiling islet, and examining more closely its varied charms? The few grographical works which I had brought with me, either made no mention whatever of Annabon, or else gave such meagre information respecting it, that my curiosity was naturally all the more awakened. Not a trace of a village or a house could we discover; but we descried several boats along the coast, and their number soon increased so rapidly that we counted above an hundred; they were each manned by two rowers, and approached our vessel with great celerity.

We had just hoisted the Danish flag,

when the first boat inquired, in scarcely intelligible English, to what country we belonged? We might have spared ourselves the trouble of making any reply, for the name of Denmark and of Hamburg were as utterly unknown to these islanders as some remote Bohemian forest; nevertheless, as soon as their numbers were somewhat increased, they gained courage, and came on board with the greatest confidence. They all knew just enough of English to introduce themselves with the words, "Me friend to you, and you friend to me." Very few among them could say more than this, and of Portuguese, which we expected them to be acquainted with, as the island had so long appertained to Portugal, they knew still less! Our intercourse was consequently very restricted, and our negotiations for a goat, a fowl, &c., or for their little plaited baskets filled with shells or lemons were, for

the most part, conducted by pantomimic signs.

We had not long cast anchor, when a boat arrived from the northern part of the island, bringing the Governor of Annabon. We naturally expected to see a Spaniard, or, at all events, a semi-polished negro or mulatto gentleman; but this ridiculous little black man, who was dignified with the title of Governor, caused a general smile among our party. His whole attire was mean and shabby; he wore a dirty red cotton cloak, a shirt which might once have been white, a dark waistcoat, grey pantaloons, an old crushed black beaver hat, and very clumsy shoes and stockings. He was evidently quite unaccustomed to have his legs and feet covered, and was, in fact, the only person in the whole island whom I saw wearing shoes. He informed us, in broken Portuguese, with which he seemed more conversant than with English, that

he was the Governor of this island, and that the highest authority was vested in his hands. He likewise told us, that none of us could land without his permission, but that if we would give him some European clothes and a few other things, which, of course included some bottles of Hollands, he would take care that all our wishes should be attended to, and that we should have an ample supply of water and fresh provisions.

On our inquiring whether Annabon were a Spanish or a Portuguere possession, he was thrown into considerable embarrassment, and after a few moments' hesitation. he decided in favour of Spain; and as none of us attempted to contradict him, he added that he was the representative of the Spanish power and dominion. He said it was indeed true, that he was not yet in possession of a national flag, but that he nevertheless hoped to receive one

from us, or, at any rate, the materials for making it.

We all ransacked our wardrobes for some cast-off article of dress, to present to his excellency, who was highly delighted with our gifts, which consisted chiefly of some trowsers, shirts, an old hat, and a gun. His two negro attendants, who were distinguished from their companions, by wearing beaver hats similar to that of the Governor, likewise put in their claim for some donations.

After testifying his joy, his excellency very unceremoniously asked for a waistcoat, but we were determined not to humour his impudence, and therefore resolved not to give him one. He was very pertinacious, and frequently took us aside, one after the other, and tried to bribe us by the promise of cocoa-nuts, honey, fruit, nay, even of a pig, to become the possessor of this treasure. Finding all his

endeavours futile, the Spanish Governor, like a spoiled child, threw himself into an arm-chair, and leaning his head upon his hand, remained for some time mute and immoveable. In order to get our protector into a good humour without yielding to his whims, some of the ladies on board produced gold tassals, with which they decorated his hat like a harlequin, and this quite restored him to his former cheerfulness. He drank off one glass of wine after the other, but every now and then asked for a small glass of spirits, which he seemed to prize above all things.

Meanwhile, the number of our sable visitors had increased so greatly, that the deck was literally crowded with them. We requested the interference of the Governor to rid us of this troublesome throng, but his authority was not in the least respected by his countrymen, who only

laughed at him, and gave not the least heed to his words. Our steersman suddenly observed, that the tin plate which covered the touch-hole of one of our cannons was missing; and as none but these blacks could have stolen it, our captain resorted to the energetic measure of firing off one of the guns, several of which were laden, in hopes that the explosion might put the negroes to flight. The effect was electric: as if struck with lightning, they all rushed to the sides of the vessel, and jumped overboard, without even allowing themselves time to draw their floating boats after them. As they were all expert swimmers, they were at a considerable distance from the ship in a few moments. It was long before the Governor, who was ignorant of the cause of our firing, could overcome his suspicions that we harboured hostile intentions, and his two attendants were possessed with the same notion; he however

gradually recovered from his fright, and a glass of wine presently made him feel at ease again. Although the crowd of negroes had been so quickly dispersed, many soon mustered courage to return, but their diminished numbers enabled us to keep them in check.

We thought it our best policy to invite Don Antonio, for thus his excellency styled himself, to dine with us; he heaped large quantities of salt meat upon his plate, and managed tolerably well to eat it with a fork and knife, although it was very evident that they were not in daily requisition. He likewise handled his spoon pretty well, and ever and anon glanced at the company, to avoid making any gross blunders. His generous request to be permitted to send his wife some dinner from our table, was of course gladly complied with; but what was our surprise when he called for the hat of one of his

aid-de-camps, and with his own hands transferred into it the contents of his plate. Our amazement was increased when he put several spoonfuls of mashed potatoes over this meal, and sent this dainty dish to the most exalted lady in Annabon, who, as I learnt next day, greatly enjoyed the feast.

Immediately after dinner I requested Don Antonio's permission to row ashore, as I wished to walk from about the middle of the island to its northern extremity, and then to rejoin our ship. He very readily acceded to my wish, and even offered me a night's lodging in his house, saying, that he would give his wife due notice of the intended honour. I could not prevail on any of our ship's company to join me in this expedition, save a musician, and one of our butchers, not another individual had the courage to expose himself to danger from the rude inhabitants.

Armed with a dagger and provided with a bottle of wine, I went on board one of their little boats, and my two attendants followed my example.

All the boats were made of the hollowed trunk of a tree, and were so small that it was impossible for us three to get into the same boat, nor could two persons sit abreast; nay, it was even dangerous for one man to attempt to pass another, because the boat immediately threatened to upset.

Each of us was accordingly posted in the centre of a boat, and while we anxiously held fast on either side, our rowers sitting at each end, plying their small shovel-like oars—carried us rapidly and adroitly along. Whenever the waves threatened to upset the boat, the rowers immediately shifted to the other side, and thus restored the equilibrium. But I must say, that an excursion of this kind is rather

alarming to a person who undertakes it for the first time.

The nearer we approached the island, the more beautiful was the prospect; a citron grove appeared to clothe the whole with light green verdure, from the foot to the highest summit of the mountain, while here and there the lofty pisang-palms and tamarinds towered above this grove. The surface of the mountain, which in the distance seemed perfectly smooth, now presented a singularly rent appearance, and involuntarily reminded me of Saxon Switzerland, except that the rugged eminences of this island are probably twice as high, and no where destitute of vegetation.

The bottom of the sea, along the shore, has doubtless the same conformation, and the isolated projecting cliffs render it impracticable, or, at least, highly dangerous for large vessels to approach close on

the east side. The surf was very inconsiderable, and we landed on the middle of the coast, without the slightest difficulty. The narrow beech consisted of stones that had rolled down from the cliffs, there were no flints whatever, but many fragments and pieces of lava; the island being of volcanic formation, no sand was anywhere to be seen, and only very few remains of shells. At one spot a large portion of rock had slipped down; one end of it was submerged, while the other lent above, against the steep bank, and formed a majestic bridge, under whose lofty arch the small native boats passed fearlessly.

We found it impossible to proceed further northward along the beech, which was very steep close to the shore, and therefore, after the boats and their rowers had quitted us, we struck at random directly into the interior of the island.

After proceeding a few paces, the brushwood, which consisted of jungle, brambles, and grass as high as a man, became so thick and matted, that we had much difficulty in making our way through it; our advance was, however, facilitated by a small stream, which rushed swiftly along its stony bed, and emptied itself into the sea. Stepping from stone to stone, we easily proceeded under the shade of its umbrageous banks about a couple of hundred paces further. Here we found the ruins of a wall, composed of pieces of lava; it formed the inclosure of a square plot of ground, where the hand of man had probably been employed many years before with the cultivation of fruits. Here stood the finest bananas richly laden, pine-apples grew in abundance among the grass; but, unluckily for us, they were not yet ripe. The cocoa trees were likewise laden, and there were

many fruit-bearing plants among the thickets, which could not be clearly distinguished; everything was so completely overrun with creepers and parasites, all richly clad with beautiful flowers, and we quite regretted that this charming spot was so wholly abandoned. Not a trace of man was to be found; there was no road; no path, nor even a plant trodden under foot. In vain did we look for a human habitation; but nowhere did we find even the ruins or vestage of a former building.

Scarcely an hundred steps further we crossed a path, and suddenly came upon a very neat chapel with several wooden crosses placed in front of it. We entered the open door, and found a rudely fashioned table, covered with a mat, and two carved wooden images, evidently of European workmanship, standing upon it. I afterwards learnt that these figures were

meant to represent St. Anthony and the Virgin. Between them stood an earthen pot, which contained wood-ashes and some half-burnt bones, which appeared to me to be those of a hand.

We sat down and rested in front of this chapel, and hoped that some wanderer might pass by; but: in vain, not a living creature appeared. We drank our bottle of wine, and consoled ourselves that we should find some human dwellings when we reached the top of the mountain. After recruiting ourselves, we proceeded on our fatiguing pilgrimage in the direction in which we had set out, nearly following the stream without deviating into the foot-path.

As we proceeded, our difficulties increased; the way, which had hitherto been rather steep, seemed to become more and more so, and very rugged; the heat and exercise greatly increased our thirst;

but, fortunately, we often had an opportunity to allay it with excellent water, as we met with a murmuring brook, and frequently found the hollows of some projecting rock filled with refreshing water. Often when we had been climbing up to a certain point, with much toil and labour, and had just laid hold on some friendly bush, it was suddenly uprooted from its thin bed of earth, and we slipped down together, with our hands and legs severely scratched, and our clothes torn to pieces.

The sun was now setting, and the apparently long distance to the summit, combined with our excessive fatigue, almost induced us to relinquish the hope of reaching a negro village ere nightfall. First one, and then another of the party proposed that we should take up our night's quarters on this spot; but we summoned up all our resolutions, and, collecting our remaining strength, we

made the last effort, and reached the summit.

Meantime the sun had gone down; not a house was visible; and, fearful of proceeding in the dark, along such a dangerous path, we lay down in the grass close together. We had brought an umbrella to protect us against the sun, and we now spread it out as a shelter against the wind which was blowing rather fresh from the west. We were all excessively weary; and, without giving way to unpleasant thoughts of possible danger from wild beasts, we had scarcely lain down ere we fell asleep.

A few hours might perhaps have passed when I awoke, and found that the dew fell as heavily as small rain; and, in spite of our umbrella, I was wet through and through. My companions were no better off than myself. The cold was so intense that we could not go to sleep again, and

we impatiently waited for the break of day.

Scarcely did it begin to dawn, when we rose from our damp couch, as wet as if we had been drawn out of the water, numbed in every limb, and trembling with cold; none of us had the most remote conception that the nights under the equator could be so cold and piercing, for we had never experienced any thing approaching to it on the coast.

We stood at an elevation of about eight hundred to a thousand feet above the level of the sea, and enjoyed the most beautiful prospect that I ever beheld in the whole course of my life. All around was the boundless ocean on the west side, violently dashing against the ragged banks; and on the east, smooth as a mirror, gently leaving the verdant coast. Our immediate vicinity resembled a lovely garden, studded with flowers and fruit; the steep cliffs

were flushed to the very top with brilliant blossoms: numerous citron trees bent beneath their shining fruit, while pine-apples peeped out amid the verdant carpet, and lofty cocoa-palms reared their graceful crowns above the bright vegetation. The sight of this lonely scenery, which reposed so peacefully in the cheerful light of morning, refreshed our hearts and spirits, and imparted new vigour after the restless and uncomfortable night which we had passed.

At the northern extremity lay the small negro town, inclosed in a lofty cocoa-nut wood, and shaded by banyan trees, and in a little creek opposite the town, the Vasco da Gama was lying quietly at anchor.

I saw clearly that for to day, at least, I must relinquish my plan of visiting a lake, which is said to lie in the middle of the island, at the height of four hundred

feet above the level of the sea. We could not perceive anything of it from the top of the mountain where we were standing, and as I fully expected that our vessel would remain here a day longer, I hoped, with the assistance of a guide, to approach it by a nearer route.

We observed a narrow foot-path winding in numerous zigzags down to the town, and found that it was the very same which we had crossed on the preceding day. It was but a short cut to this path, but it was so cold and disagreeable, because the bushes were still dripping with the dew, that none of us were willing to encounter the first brush. The sun, however, rose suddenly, and its warm rays soon penetrated through the clouds, drank up the dew, aud in a few moments all was dry and cheerful, and we continued our way with thankful hearts.

The hand of art seemed to have done

little or nothing to this road; here and there a wooden cross stood by the way-side, probably erected not only from a religious motive, but also to serve as land-marks on the steep intricate rocks. Hunger and thirst induced us to quicken our steps towards the town, and we had nearly reached it, when three negroes came to meet us clapping their hands. They had come out in search of us by order of the governor; because our absence during the night had excited apprehensions, that we had met with some accident among the precipitous rocks. We got these men to gather some cocoa-nuts for us, which they did most willingly, and cut them very adroitly with their long dagger-like knives; at this season the shell was of course not so hard as when the fruit is ripe, but the milk, which quite invigorated us, is in perfection at this time.

On entering the town, we found the

whole population assembled in troops, to gaze at us, and as white men are probably scarcely ever seen, the young people run away screaming aloud, and the women withdrew in evident terror as soon as ever we approached.

I was struck with the great regularity in which the town is built. It is traversed by two long wide streets, which cross each other, and which are terminated at the four ends by a pretty chapel; in front of one of these a bell was suspended, which was rung violently when we landed in the afternoon with the captain.

The houses were all very small, and consisted of a wall of bamboos or of planks; in some cases there was only an opening in place of the door, and no apertures for windows. The roofs are so beautifully woven of palm-leaves and rushes that they are imperveous to the rain, which is said occasionally to be very

heavy. Some houses had a small court-yard for pigs and poultry, fenced in with reeds; but these animals for the most part roamed at will about the town, or in the adjacent citron grove.

The governor's wife, to whom we were conducted, was awaiting our arrival in her little hut. She was rather old and wrinkled, and received us apparently without the slightest apprehension, cordially shaking hands with each, and bidding us good morning in the Portuguese' language. The appartment was about ten feet square, it had no ceiling and was only covered in by the straw-roof. At one end was a little chamber about three feet broad, which was divided from the other room by a wooden partition; it contained an old European trunk covered with seal-skin, several sleeping mats and some finer ones worn as aprons or waist-cloths, some maize bread, a few bakets with fishing

utensils and dried fish, with which the whole house was perfumed.

The larger appartment accommodated his excellency, together with his wife and a grown up son, by day and by night; here a make shift of a table was set up, and three very curiously fashioned seats arranged for us. As soon as we were seated, dinner was served, and as we were half famished, we sat down with a hearty appetite. Our meal consisted of bad-smelling dried fish, which were both hard and tough, a large piece of maize bread, which indeed looked inviting, but was very insipid; an abundance of cocoa-nuts, and a calabash with palm wine, which we all relished.

Our friendly hostess had meantime seated herself quietly in a corner on the ground, without taking any part in our repast. The house-door was beset by a number of inquisitive gazers, who laughed

outright on my drinking the health of our hostess, which evidently caused her some embarrassment. After we had managed to partake of these dishes, a fire was lighted in a corner of room, and some eggs were set on to boil, and which were of course much more to our taste than the dried fish which had been first set before us.

We were surprised that Don Antonio was not present to welcome us, and, on inquiry, were told by our hostess, that he had not yet come on shore, but had remained all night on deck, in a state of intoxication. This, however, did not seem to lower him much in the esteem of his indulgent partner; who, if the truth were told, seemed rather to envy him for his ample enjoyment of spirituous liquors.

While we were still at table a negro entered, and after announcing himself as

the physician of the island, requested me to visit one of his patients. I accordingly accompanied him to a neighbouring hut, where I found a young girl lying on a mat without any covering whatever. She was quite emaciated, and was suffering from an abcess, which I instantly opened with a lancet, and so astonished the medico, that he entreated me to make him a present of such an invaluable instrument for his own use. The girl, who had at first shown great fear and timidity at my presence, was quite at her ease as soon as I had afforded her relief, and she even begged me to repeat my visit.

I returned to our ship in one of the little negro-boats; before doing so, I visited the shore, which is very sandy at this part, but I did not see many rare specimens among the conchyltia. On my arrival on board I found a great quantity and variety of natural fruits, some of which had been

presented to us, and the rest bartered for old clothes.

I was concerned to find the Governor still quite intoxicated, but he was, nevertheless, in high good humour, and made large promises of pigs, fowls, sacks full of cocoa-nuts, and I know not what else, few of which, however, were fulfilled. Towards noon, the priest of the island came to our ship, carrying a pig under his arm, which he wished to exchange for a pair of white pantaloons; but, as he found us unwilling to enter into any such negotiation, he left the ship in a dudgeon, carrying the rejected swine with him. His dress consisted of a wrapper, something like a samar, which rendered the said pantaloons quite superfluous; his feet, like those of all the other negroes, were bare.

We found a custom prevalent among these good-tempered islanders, which was

quite novel to us, viz., the exchange of names; every interview was commenced with the question as to the respective names of the two parties which were then exchanged as a token of friendship. This interchange was, however, repeated so frequently, that every one soon forgot the name which he had last adopted. All were pure Portuguese, Ex. Miguel, Pedro, Antonio, Christovao, Manoel, &c., and, as far as I could ascertain, the negroes called each other by these names only.

The island of Annabon is erroneously mentioned as a Portuguese colony, in an almanac of the island of Terceira of the year 1832; whereas it was ceded to Spain in 1768. Last year the Economical Society of Madrid offered prizes for the best essays on Annabon and Fernando Po, and awarded one of them to Mr. J. M. de los Rios, Professor of Jurisprudence, in the University of Madrid, and the other, to

Mr. J. Mores y Morellon, Professor of Navigation. Those authors agree in this statement, that the island is one of the most fertile on the African coast, and produces all the fruits which abound on the continent in the greatest perfection; they both represent the inhabitants as very well-disposed, faithful, and very religious.

This alleged change of sovereignty is again a melancholy evidence of the effects of the slave-trade; that Spain has not even taken possession of Annabon since 1778; and that Portugal, up to that time, did not even think it worth while to send any Portuguese officer there, or to do any thing else for the colonization of the country, may be easily accounted for, from the circumstance that this island offers no advantage to the slave-dealer. Provisions are, indeed, abundant; but they may be more easily obtained on the neighbouring islands, and Annabon is too near the coast

to be used as a station on the route to the Brazils or the Havannah. To this we may add, that the irregularity of the winds in these latitudes often protracts the passage from Guinea to twenty-four, thirty, nay, even forty days; and ships, consequently, endeavour to avoid Annabon, if possible.

The great fertility of the country was an insufficient inducement to those who called themselves its owners, to take any notice whatever of the island; and yet, Morellon, in his above-mentioned Prize Essay, affirms, that the island, notwithstanding its small extent, could now export annually 600 sacks of flour, 100 bags of French beans, 100 cwt. of fish, 1000 cwt. of wood, and many thousand oranges, citrons, plantains, and other fruits. These, he thinks, might be covered by imports to the value of 2000 reals; but he is of opinion, that the island might produce a far greater abundance, if any attention

were paid to it. Indigo, which forms so valuable an article of commerce, is passed over in silence in both the above-mentioned Essays, though it every where grows wild; but the use of this plant seems to be wholly unknown, even to the inhabitants themselves.

Happily for Annabon, it has this year come into the possession of England, which will assuredly soon turn to account the numerous advantages which the island affords, will raise it from its oblivion, and ere long, will make it a flourishing colony.

Annabon, or Annobon,* was discovered by the Portuguese in the year 1498, conquered by the Dutch in 1641, and, some years afterwards, returned to the possession of Portugal. In 1778, it was ceded

* The negroes seemed to me to call the island Annabon, and not Annobon! I do not know which of the two is right, but follow the pronunciation of the natives.

to Spain, together with Fernando Po, and in 1843 purchased by the English.* Its extent is very variously stated: Morellon, for instance, makes it twenty-four geographical miles in circumference; ten miles in length, six at its greatest breadth, and forty-six square miles in its superfices; whereas Wybraud van Warwyvk, in his voyage to the West Indies in 1602, states the circumference as only two leagues; the Folhinja da Terceira of 1832 makes the circumference ten leagues, &c., so much, however is certain, that the greatest extent from north to south, is seven geographical miles, and the circumference stated by Morellon, is probably nearly correct.

There is not a single European now resident in the island; I did not even see any mulattos. The women have a great dislike to the whites, and the people, therefore, retain their pure origin. The

* See Appendix C.

beauty of their person and features immediately stamps them as belonging to the Congo race; they have scarcely a trace of the high cheek-bones, thick lips, low forehead, and large posterior of the head, which remind us of the negroes of Upper Guinea. The fine black colour of their skin, which is never disfigured by tattooing, or daubings of paint or oil, is extremely pleasing, even in the eyes of the civilised European, and they leave their hair to its natural growth. The only ornaments which I saw among the men and women, were six or seven small plain gold or brass rings, which are worn in each ear, and a wooden necklace, to which is attached a cross of the same material, which hangs on his breast, in token that he is a "good Catholic." I could not prevail on one of them to sell one of these necklaces.

These simple islanders seem to be wholly

unacquainted with weapons of every kind; the only sharp instrument which they possess is a knife, which they carry at their side, for the purpose of cutting up cocoa-nuts, when they are hungry or thirsty. On my offering to barter my dagger for one of these knives, the negro at once tried its virtue upon an unripe cocoa-nut, but as the back of the blade was too thick for his purpose, he could not easily cut the fruit, and therefore returned it to me, saying, "that it was good for nothing." I then explained to him the real use of a dagger, upon which he seemed horrified, and left me under evident apprehension.

It is a gratifying fact, that during two whole centuries this little nation has never had occasion to take up arms against any distuber of its tranquillity. Previous to that time, when a Portuguese colonist resided among them, and carried on the

slave-trade, they were indeed represented to us as being perfidious and warlike, from the fact, that they behaved in a hostile manner to some ships that touched there; but either they were the injured parties, or a great change and improvement has since taken place in their moral character. Nothing is wanting to their advancement in civilization, but the example and intercourse of well-educated and high-principled Europeans; and now, that Annabon has come under the protection of England, we shall unquestionably see great advantages resulting to the inhabitants from this change of masters.

On the following day, I went ashore to pay another, and a last, visit to these delightful environs of the little town. I took a walk in the umbrageous citron grove, where I met a party of eight or ten girls carrying baskets of sand upon their heads. They were quite terrified at

my sudden appearance, and hastily throwing down their baskets, ran with loud cries into the thick bushes. They never once stopped till they had got fairly to the top of a steep eminence, from which they looked down upon me in security, and laughed heartily.

The citrons were very fine, and I never saw so great an abundance as lay about under the trees; the ground was literally covered with the fallen fruit; there were also many pine-cones and cashew-nuts, but the delicious fruit of the mango-tree was not so common, because its vigorous stem probably requires a deeper soil. The cocoa-trees are seldom above thirty feet high, and the branches are often so low, that you can pluck the nuts while standing on the ground. The taller trees are generally furnished with little blocks of wood, which are nailed to the trunk, and by the help of which the natives may

reach the crown with as much ease as if mounted on a ladder.

When I returned to the town, I bartered, or gave away, the remainder of the knives and rings which I had brought with me for this purpose. The negroes pressed around me with baskets of fruit and eggs, but the timidity of the women was still so great, that they could seldom be induced to receive their purchase from my own hand; and the knife or the ring was always passed to them through the medium of some man. I obtained some potatoes, which were of a larger size than those common among us; in shape, they were somewhat flat and angular, and when boiled, were hard and rather green, but did not taste amiss.

The men were very eager after tobacco, which does not appear to grow on the island; but my little stock was exhausted on the first day.

I did not venture on board till towards the evening; we had made arrangements for going ashore the following day, but in the middle of the night the sky became overcast, portending a heavy storm. The captain was apprehensive that we should not be safe in the bay, and to my great regret, we weighed anchor immediately.

On the following morning, the 12th of March, we could still distinguish at a great distance the lofty island of Annabon, whose friendly inhabitants were, doubtless, much astonished at the suddenness of our departure.

The beautiful Annabon afforded agreeable topics of conversation for many a day, but the voyage soon became insufferably tedious; for fifty days we did not see a single sail, and it was not till we had passed the Cape Verde Archipelago, and had entered the Atlantic Ocean, that we saluted another vessel. During this long

interim, we were frequently becalmed, and, at other times, tossed with violent gusts of wind, which carried off several sails at one time; at other times, we had fearful thunder-storms, which are said to be more severe and long-continued, than in any part of the world.

We we often diverted with the sporting of the whales; and one fine clear day, saw nine of these monsters of the deep together; they frequently rose so near us, that all who were on deck were completely covered with the white foam which they spouted in the air.

On one occasion, we caught a shark, twelve feet in length, on a large hook, and sometimes the sailors harpooned a dolphin, or a bonita, the well-tasted flesh of which afforded us an agreeable repast. The innumerable quantity of Spara Salpa gave rise to many an interesting chase, and the capture of the Portuguese Ma-

nuare, which we frequently met with, gave me much pain. We rarely saw any birds, except in the vicinity of Sierra Leone, which we passed within a distance of about ten miles; but often met with large flocks of sea-fowl, and caught numerous little sterna, by a string baited with small pieces of bacon.

Our stock of water was considerably diminished by our protracted voyage; we were again placed upon short allowance, and we resolved to put in at Santiago, in the Cape Verde Group; but both the current and north-west winds were always against us, and obliged us to proceed to the Azores, which we endeavoured to gain as soon as possible.

On the 10th of May, we reached the lovely island of Fayal, and cast anchor in the road-stead of the pretty town of Horta. It derives its name, which means beech-forest, from the abundance of those

trees which were found here when the island was first discovered. Few of these noble trees now remain, but there is much fine pasture-land—many vineyards, and beautiful citron groves. The natural productions bear on the whole so great a resemblance to those of Europe, that they reminded me of that continent rather than of Africa. Pretty looking country-houses resembling villas, lay scattered every where in the vicinity of Horta the chief town, which has a very beautiful appearance when seen from the harbour, where the rocky shore rises rather steep on either side.

On an eminence to the left of the town stands a little hermitage, the tenant of which will have no great difficulty in keeping his vow, never to leave this lovely neighbourhood. The padre who dwells here amid his orchard and garden, enjoys a splendid view over the beautiful town,

which is scarcely ten minutes distant, and of a great part of the island—the opposite island of Pico, with its many vineyards, and the wide expanse of the ever-changing ocean. He is supplied with milk and bread from the town every morning, and is considered a very pious man; but I must confess he appeared to me to be very wily.

The first sight of the European boats, of the white rowers, and gentlemen in European costume was very welcome. I hastened on shore, and was conducted to a kind of hotel kept by a Mr. Coitinjo, who received his guests with genuine insular civility. I wandered eight or ten times through the cheerful streets, which are badly paved with immense stones, but have a very good foot-path. I looked with pleasure upon the generally handsome European countenances; but the costume of the women, with their long

mantillas falling over the face, excited my curiosity, but without gratifying it, for I could seldom see more than a pair of very fine bright eyes.

The loud creaking of the two-wheeled little carts, drawn by one or two oxen most awkwardly yoked together, reminded me of our heavily laden German waggons. In the principal street are several gay shops, the garden of the fortress, several churches, the hospital, and the court-house, and it is terminated at one end by a small mountain torrent. Here many washer-women, with their petticoats tucked up, stood cheerfully singing, who inquisitively and sportively saluted me the son of the north.

Five of us sat down to an excellent breakfast, every article of which was delightfully fresh, and incredibly cheap. There was a species of sea-snail, patella, two sorts of fish, two different kinds of meat

new potatoes, and plenty of other vegetables, together with fifteen bottles of wine, nine years old, from the island of Pico, and Mr. Coitinjo's total charge was only five milreis.

I greatly enjoyed my little excursion in the immediate environs of the town, which is most appropriately designated "the garden."

Though it was still pretty early in the year, all nature was clothed in the richest verdure. I need not say anything of the fine lemons and oranges of the Azores, for they are known all over Europe. Wherever the eye turns, it rests upon vineyards or citron groves laden with fruit. The finest pisang and the delicious bananas abound in the gardens, and are almost as large and excellent as in the Cape Verde Isles. Pine-apples were in perfection, and all the fruits and vegetables of Europe, are grown in abundance.

I had frequent opportunities of experiencing the great hospitality of the kind-hearted people of Fayal, whose language, with its beautiful tones, cannot fail to charm every stranger, especially those who have come from barbarous countries. They speak the Portuguese so slowly, that every word falls like music upon the ear.

The Juiz dos Diretos of Pico, and the commandant of the fort received me with such great kindness, that although my acquaintance with them was so short, I shall always remember them with the most cordial esteem. I passed only two days in Horta, but I left it with perhaps greater regret than any other place with which I became acquainted during my voyage.

As long as day-light lasted, I stood upon the deck, and took a farewell view of this paradise on earth. The wind blew stiffly from the south-west, and, before the

break of day, had carried us out of sight of the Azores. A few days passed, and we were in the English Channel, where we learnt from the pilots who came on board, the astounding intelligence of the dreadful conflagration of Hamburgh.

On inquiry after our other ships, we were informed, that the Georgiana and the Sultana had lately passed the Channel, and that the latter had been so fearfully visited by sickness soon after she left Loanda, that of her whole crew only two sailors reached London alive and well. Fortunately, two English pilots came to the assistance of the depopulated vessel, at the mouth of the Channel, but one of them fell overboard and was drowned, and the Sultana was with great difficulty brought to London. Not only had the crew suffered, but the captain had also died, and his body was committed to the sea, near the mouth of the river Thames.

Our voyage, on the contrary, was prosperous; and on the 29th of May we cast anchor off Cuxhaven, which we had left about a year before. The quarantine authorities did not see cause to detain us, and on the 31st of May we anchored in the Port of Altona.

FINIS.

APPENDIX, A.

(page 163.)

GIGANTIC SERPENTS.

It might be very interesting to ascertain whether these snakes are of the same species as those mentioned by Dr. Martius, in his Travels in Brazil. As this part of his valuable work has not been translated into English, an extract from it, relative to these formidable animals, may not be unwelcome to the reader. Speaking of the beauty of the country near the Rio de St. Francisco, which is adorned with splendid forests of the *palma mauritia; vinifera*, he says:

"It is very dangerous to penetrate into the inmost recesses of these forests, for they are the retreat of the gigantic serpent (*boa murina, L,*)

which, as Senhor Noguneira assures us, attain such an enormous size, that when lying, stretched out at full length on the grass, they may be taken, at first sight, for the trunk of an uprooted palm.

This gigantic serpent does not kill its prey by poison, but is dangerous and formidable on account of great strength: it supports itself in an attack by twisting its tail several times round the trunk of a tree, and then darting on its victim, breaks all the bones by encompassing it with many folds, after which it slowly swallows it, by a peculiar mode of suction. The old serpents, when hungry, will attack a horse and rider, or an ox, which they swallow entire, except the horns, which they suffer to rot off. Such serpents of inferior size, are capable of swallowing incredibly large bodies. Thus several Sertaneiros told us, that they had found in the belly of a snake about forty feet long, a deer and two wild boars. That the gigantic serpent first covers its prey with its saliva is a fable.

We had frequent opportunities of seeing such serpents, as they lay basking in the sun, on the banks of the pool, coiled up like a cable; but did not succeed in killing a large one, because, on being aroused by our approach, they darted, as swift as lightning, into the water.

APPENDIX B.

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MISSIONS.

This is indeed a melancholy confirmation of the inefficiency of the labours of Roman Catholic missionaries, which has already been adverted to in the note on page 182, of Vol. I. with some remarks on the probable cause of a result so disproportioned to the zealous and persevering labours of the envoys of the Romish Church, many of whom were men emi-nent for their piety, their courage, and, above all, for their ardent and indefatigable zeal to

promote the important work which they had in hand. Whatever may have been the cause of a failure so complete, we have great reason to be thankful that it has not paralysed the efforts of the Protestant Church, to attain a happier result, and there is good ground to rejoice at what has been already effected. The subject is far too great to be discussed in a mere note, and it would be wholly out of place to go into it here; but as these volumes treat of a large part of Western Africa, where the labours of the Roman Catholic priests have produced so little fruit, the reader will perhaps not be sorry to have a short view of the present state of the Protestant missions on that extensive tract of the coast of Western Africa, where they have already been established, extracted from the most recent reports of the 'Church Missionary,' and the 'Wesleyan Missionary Societies.'

CHRISTIAN PROTESTANT MISSIONS IN WESTERN AFRICA.

I. THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

This mission, which was commenced in 1804, has on the whole been very successful, and its labours have unquestionably, in many instances, excited in the natives a growing dislike to the slave-trade, and in the chiefs, a desire for European instruction; and the establishment at Sierra Leone, as the Secretary observes, in a letter to Lord Stanley, may be regarded as the nucleus of evangelization and civilization to Western Africa. According to the most recent statements published by the Society, there were at the end of 1844:

Stations - - - - -	16
Missionaries - - - - -	15
Native Missionaries - -	2
Native Lay Teachers - -	39
Catechists -	5

Seminarists, training as native Teachers - - - -	26
Seminary - - - -	1
Schools - - - -	46
Communicants - - -	1,560
Attendants on Public Worship	6,270
Scholars, Boys - - -	1,750
„ Girls - - -	1,525
„ Youths and Adults -	1,959
Total Scholars - - - -	5,234

The society has likewise a mission at Abbeokouta, commenced this year (1845) where there are two European and one native missionaries, and three native catechists and school-masters.

II. THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Wesleyan society has three missions on the Western coast of Africa, viz.

1. Sierra Leone, which has

Principal Stations, or circuits -	3

Missionaries - - - -	6
Church Members at Sierra Leone	2,371
Scholars - - -	1,402
Paid School Teachers - -	23
Unpaid ditto, not reported	

II. THE GAMBIA, in which there are—

Principal Stations - -	3
Missionaries and Assistant Missionaries - - -	8
Full and accredited Church Members - - - -	533
On trial for Member-ship, not reported	
Scholars—Males 221 — Females 105—Total	326
School-teachers	7

III. THE GOLD COAST, Ashantee, and other parts of Guinea, here there are—

Principal Stations, called Circuits	8
Missionaries - - - -	5
Catechists, Interpreters, &c. -	29
Full and accredited Church Members -	690

Scholars — Males 224, Females,
29—Total - - - - 316
Paid School Teachers - - 13

APPENDIX C.

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ANNABON.

Although Dr. Tams so plainly affirms that Annabon is now a possession of the British Crown, it appears that he must have spoken on information that was incorrect, or which he misunderstood. Presuming that, if the island had been transferred to England, it must have been by some treaty or convention, I thought it desirable to learn the terms of that convention; and, as no information of so recent a date could be found in any publication, I applied to the Foreign and Colonial Offices, which must certainly be aware if any such treaty existed. At both those offices, however, I was assured, not only that no cession of the island to Great Britain had taken place, but that there had not

been any negotiation to that effect; nor could any document be found which could have given occasion to such a notice. It is to be regretted, that this should be the case, as the natives of this beautiful island would, doubtless, have benefited by the change, and the possession of it might, occasionally, at least, afford facilities to our cruisers engaged in the suppression of the slave-trade.

APPENDIX D.*

BADGES OR MARKS OF THE INDIAN TRIBES.

In the district of the Yupura there is a great number of hordes, or tribes, differing from each other; and this is the very part of the country where we meet the most frequently with the singular custom of distinguishing them from each other by peculiar characteristic marks or badges. I often inquired of the Indians them-

* This was intended as a note to page 121. of vol. I.

selves about the cause of these national marks, which cannot be made without pain, trouble, and in a considerable time; and the usual answer was, that they were for the purpose of easily distinguishing the individuals of the several tribes. If we consider the number of different hordes, tribes, or families, dwelling near each other, and who, when hunting, must often meet either singly, or in parties; the many feuds transmitted from father to son, and the complication of various treaties and alliances, which must arise from the continued state of war of many of them; and, lastly, the difficulty of coming to an understanding, caused by the great diversity of languages; all this will justify our opinion, that these marks originated in the necessity of being able to recognise each other quickly, and at a distance. The Indian is never on a spot which is the exclusive and acknowledged property of his tribe; he may, therefore, be taken by those who meet him, for an enemy or a robber; and, on this account, he always has about him these strange disfigurations,

which may indicate peace, war, or neutrality. This opinion is rendered the more probable, by the fact that tribes similarly marked, generally live at peace with each other, and that every tribe has one declared enemy. It is very usual for an Indian, when questioned respecting the peculiarities of his tribe, to add the name of its hereditary enemy. The type of these marks is always from the animal kingdom; they are intended for the resemblance of the araras, of the various species of monkeys, of the ounce, &c. and are generally produced by the operation of tatooing, especially in the face. Piercing the lips, the nose, and the ears, and filling the holes with variously formed pieces of wood, stone, or resin, shells, glass, bits of porcelain, is a subordinate kind of badge, for the Indian may lay it aside when he is at home, and often does so at night.

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